

France orders troops into Chad capital

PARIS. — France, reacting to what it said was a Libyan air raid on N'djamena airport early yesterday, ordered troops and aircraft to the Chad capital to back President Hissene Habre's government in its fight against rebel forces.

After yesterday's raid by a lone Soviet-made Tupolev 22 bomber on N'djamena Airport, Defence Minister Paul Quilès said France would be moving in aircraft and a "deterrent force" of troops.

He did not specify which aircraft, but they seemed almost certain to be the Jaguar strike jets based in the neighbouring Central African Republic, which carried out a raid on Sunday on Ouadi Doum Airport in the rebel-held part of northern Chad.

He said the force would include anti-aircraft "equipment" to be deployed around N'djamena Airport, where French planes would be stationed "shortly" to defend the capital.

Quilès identified the aircraft that took part in this morning's raid as Libyan jets.

Sunday's raid on Ouadi Doum was carried out on the direct orders of President François Mitterrand in response to a plea for help by Habre to fight off an offensive by the Libyan-backed rebels.

A representative of the Chadian rebel Transitional Government of National Union (Gunt) said nine people, two of them pregnant women, were killed in the raid.

Libya credited the rebels with yesterday's air raid, saying it was in retaliation for the French operation.

(See Analysis, page 2)

Death toll in Jo'burg unrest now nine

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — Four people died yesterday as battles raged in a black South African township bordering affluent white suburbs, police said.

A black policeman was found shot dead and a man and two youths were killed by police gunfire, bringing the official death toll in three days of violence in Johannesburg's Alexandra township to nine.

Police said "mobs of blacks" fired on them yesterday and then an and youths died as officers fired back.

A policeman and a local government official were hurt when shots were fired at their homes. Six black men and a youth were wounded and arrested when business premises were petrol-bombed and a black woman was arrested as bands of black people roamed the debris-strewn streets of the township.

The official death toll throughout South Africa is 18 in three days of some of the worst black protest violence for two years.

(Earlier story page 4)



The Likud Knesset faction yesterday toasted "the success of the economic programme" directed by Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i. Picture shows Yehoshua Matza, Moda'i, and Sara Doron. (Harari)

Alignment ministers continue calls for economic growth

By ROY ISACOWITZ
and AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Labour Party ministers kept up their campaign for economic growth yesterday, following the raucous exchange of insults with the Likud over the issue on Sunday, and Prime Minister Peres again blasted the Likud's economic record.

Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday: "As defence minister, I very much want to see a change of course in the direction of growth." Rabin was addressing a convention of students from IDF industrial schools. "We must assist both failing factories and factories which do not fully use their productive capacity," he said.

Rabin made only a passing reference to the cabinet session, advising the students to "learn from the government's successes and not from its exceptions."

Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi, the architect of the Labour Party's controversial growth programme, was far more outspoken, accusing the Likud of implementing "insane, and irresponsible" policies while it was in power.

Ya'acobi dismissed as "pathetic and cynical" the attempts by the Likud to turn the economic debate into an argument over rotation. The argument, he said, was over three goals: the struggle against unemployment, the need to expand exports and the advancement of the development areas.

Ya'acobi, who was touring Rishon LeZion, said his growth programme would not mean "opening the taps" but rather the reordering of spending priorities.

Ya'acobi was joined in his attack on the Likud by Peres, who said: "In seven years [of Likud rule], everything worthwhile in the economy

was destroyed. Money was borrowed from abroad and doled out to the public irresponsibly."

Speaking to members of Negev kibbutzim at Nahal Oz, Peres insisted that "the Labour Party did not come into being to fight the Likud, but to serve the country." Renewing growth, he added, was intended primarily to "help development towns, prevent unemployment, advance industry and save agriculture."

Postponing economic growth until after rotation is "absurd," Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev told an Iim reporter yesterday. The figure governing the beginning of growth is not October 13 but the 7.5 per cent of the work-force who are unemployed, Bar-Lev said.

In an informal briefing for economic reporters in Jerusalem, Peres's closest advisors said the premier was "dissatisfied with the politicization of the policy debate over growth."

But one aide also reminded reporters that "seven out of the 10 Likud ministers who participated in the all-night cabinet session at which the new economic programme was mooted opposed it outright—including a few who today praise it as a great success."

The aides stressed that Peres's suggestion of raising about \$400m. to pump into the economy "has nothing to do with disturbing Israel's savings." Rather, Peres had in mind instituting a more liberal policy towards bond and stock issues by corporations, and allowing the cash-heavy pension funds—now required to invest almost entirely in government debentures—to invest in corporate equities.

The premier's aides said he is placing high hopes on his trip to the U.S. in April.

Factions in Knesset try to tone down differences

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

Even as Alignment ministers maintained their sharp tone in comments on economic policy yesterday, members of the Alignment and Likud Knesset factions tried to tone down the differences between the parties that surfaced at Sunday's cabinet meeting and made it plain that the rank and file prefer collaboration to confrontation.

There was not the slightest enthusiasm in the Alignment faction for the idea of breaking the rotation agreement between the two big parties.

At the Alignment faction executive, a decision was passed unanimously demanding that Prime Minister Peres appear in person before the faction within 24 hours and explain the decision of the Alignment Ministers forum (Savenu) to shift the economic restraint programme over to a policy of growth.

A second decision was passed demanding that Peres respond to reports that Alignment ministers were working to violate the rotation agreement.

If Peres cannot appear, the Alignment executive said, he should delegate one of his cabinet colleagues to come.

The chief Alignment representative on the Knesset Finance Committee, Haim Ramon, blamed the Alignment ministers for their clumsiness in giving the public the erroneous impression that the Alignment had reservations about economic restraint, and that a policy of growth negated the economic restraint programme.

Ramon said: "The Ministers committed a fateful error. They tar-

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Two Israelis and SLA soldier captured in South Lebanon ambush; two SLA troops killed

Tension rises as IDF seeks abducted men

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
and HIRSH GOODMAN
Post Defence Correspondents

Large numbers of IDF troops were reported to be scouring the central sector of Southern Lebanon last night in search of two Israeli soldiers and a member of the South Lebanese Army, who were abducted by unidentified terrorists at 12:30 p.m. Two SLA men were killed in the incident.

Tension in the area was reported to be very high late last night.

According to Unifil sources and reports from South Lebanon, at least 600 Israeli personnel were said to be involved in the search that encompassed 14 Shi'ite villages north of the Security Zone, up to a depth of 10 kilometres from the Israeli border.

Beirut television last night broadcast a picture of a man the announcer claimed was one of the abducted Israelis. The picture, however, was indistinct, and by late last night Israeli officials could not confirm whether the man was indeed one of the abducted soldiers. Beirut television reported that the man was being held in a Beirut hospital.

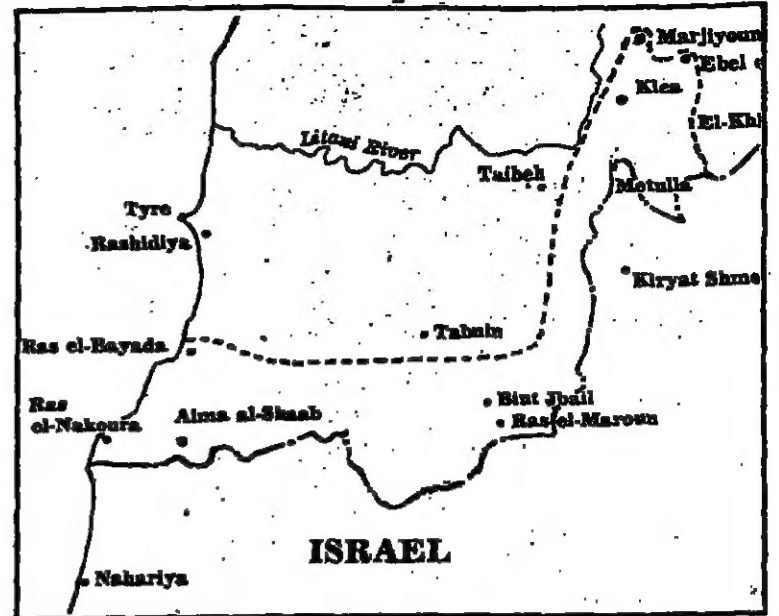
The incident occurred near Beit Yahoun inside the Security Zone just north of Bint Jabel in the central sector, when the two Israelis and the SLA man were travelling in one of three SLA vehicles on a routine patrol in the direction of Tibnin. As the three-vehicle convoy rounded a bend in the road, an explosive charge went off next to the middle vehicle, killing the two SLA men immediately, and slightly injuring an Israeli officer who was travelling with them.

As the charge exploded, an unknown number of armed gunmen attacked the third and last vehicle in the convoy, and abducted the two Israelis and the SLA soldier in it. The occupants of the first vehicle escaped unhurt. By late last night it was still unclear whether or not they had opened fire on the attackers.

The families of the two missing Israeli soldiers were informed last night.

Israeli reinforcements were helicoptered to the scene of the clash within minutes. Israeli infantry troops were reported deployed on the main axes leading out of the security zone.

Timor Goksel, the spokesman for Unifil in Southern Lebanon, told The Jerusalem Post last night that there were sizeable IDF forces operating north of the Security Zone. There had been no friction at all, however, with UN forces stationed in the area, he said, nor had there been any reports of violent clashes by villagers in the areas of the IDF's operation. Goksel said the Israeli



forces were composed of airborne infantry units and mechanized patrol units.

According to witnesses at the scene of the clash, the two Israelis and the SLA soldier were hustled into two Mercedes-Benz cars by the attackers, who drove away in the direction of Kafra Shakra, northwest of Beit Yahoun. It is assumed that the cars will try to make their way to the Bekaa, where the majority of the Pro-Syrian terrorist organizations have their headquarters.

It was unclear last night, however, whether or not the terrorists had managed to get their hostages out of the Security Zone.

The fact that by late last night no terrorist organization had directly accepted responsibility for the attack seems to suggest that the terrorists haven't escaped. Had the hostages been "safely" within their grasp, an announcement would probably have been made.

Reports from Beirut credit three organizations for the attack: Abu Mousa's pro-Syrian FLO faction, the Lebanese Resistance Forces, and an organization called Members of the Lebanese Revolution. Late last night, another group, the "Islamic Resistance Movement" claimed it had the two Israelis. Both were reportedly injured.

There was some speculation among defence sources that the organization behind the incident was Yasser Arafat's wing of the PLO, which has recently started to re-establish itself in and around Sidon and the Ein Hilwe refugee camp. Israel is currently holding several key members of Force 17, the elite Fatah unit, including the deputy commander, who were intercepted at sea en route to Lebanon early last year.

Yesterday's incident came as a shock to the senior echelons of the IDF and the Defence Ministry.

Foreign reports have said there are as many as 300 Israeli troops permanently deployed in the 10-kilometre deep Security Zone since the IDF's formal withdrawal from Lebanon last June. Some of these forces are attached to the SLA in the capacity of advisers, while others man IDF positions placed at strategic points in Southern Lebanon. The units that were attacked yesterday were patrolling along a well-travelled axis that connects central Southern Lebanon with the north.

The high price the terrorists have placed on Israeli hostages is seen by analysts here as a direct result of the "success" the terrorists have had in negotiating past prisoner exchanges. Following the Lebanese war, Israel exchanged a total of 6,550 Palestinian and Shi'ites for 12 Israeli soldiers captured by terrorists, including last year's exchange of 1,150 terrorists for three Israeli soldiers held by Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command.

Initial reports from Lebanon following the incident were extremely confused. The BBC quoted Reuters reporting that six Israelis were killed in the ambush, while other international news agencies quoted Beirut reports about major clashes between the IDF and members of the Irish battalion attached to Unifil. "Four columns of tanks" were also said to have "thrust into Lebanon." These clashes and reports were categorically denied by Unifil spokesman Goksel last night.

Iranian thrust aimed at Basra

Post Middle East Affairs Staff

The main objective of the Iranian attack across the Shatt al-Arab waterway that began over a week ago appears to be to occupy the port of Basra, Iraq's second largest city, according to radio reports throughout the region yesterday.

Amman radio said that Iran was massing 30 fully-equipped divisions for an attack. It said that the Iranians were trying to reach the suburbs of Basra from the Iraqi naval base of Umm-Qasr to the south, which Iran claims to have surrounded, and also from the east.

Amman radio added that the Iraqi high command was taking steps to thwart the Iranian thrust. The Jordanians' attention to the Iraqi plans in this broadcast indicated their deep concern about Iraq's present position in the conflict.

The broadcaster said that Iran might launch another attack in the central zone of the front or from the Huweiza marshes and Majnoon islands northeast of Basra in order to ease Iraqi pressure on the Iranian forces fighting in the Shatt al-Arab area to the south.

A senior IDF officer said yesterday in a briefing in Tel Aviv that Iran had massed more than 10 divisions of soldiers, revolutionary guards and volunteers for a possible humu-wave attack on Iraqi units holding the road to Baghdad north of Basra.

The IDF officer said that Iraq had about six to 10 divisions facing about 10 to 14 Iranian divisions in the central area, the largest concentrated in that sector. To block an Iranian drive, the Iraqis have flooded the area between the two armies with water, laid minefields, dug anti-tank ditches and built fortified positions.

Six divisions on each side—with about 10,000 men in each division—were involved in the fighting around the Iraqi oil port of Faw which Iran captured several days ago.



The bottom arrow indicates the Iranian attack on Faw Island, the scene of the heaviest fighting at present in the war with Iraq. Other arrows indicate other foci of Iranian offensive. Western diplomatic sources believe that the Faw assault is only to divert Iraq's attention from the north—the area indicated by the two upper arrows—where they expect the main thrust of the Iranian attack to come. Shaded area shows Shatt al-Arab waterway leading into Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

Fierce fighting continues along the Shatt al-Arab area, with conflicting reports continuing to come from both sides.

Tehran radio announced yesterday that Iranian forces were advancing towards Umm-Qasr close to Iraq's border with Kuwait, while Baghdad stressed that the Iraqi forces are advancing in a three-pronged attack towards the Gulf port of Faw, held by Iran. It added that Iraq yesterday repulsed two Iranian attempts to block the Iraqi advance.

Iraq yesterday said that its heavy

six raids on Iranian positions continued, and that it had shot down an Iranian plane.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz held talks in Moscow yesterday with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze, during which he reviewed the recent Iranian attacks in the Shatt al-Arab region.

The UN Security Council is expected to hold a special meeting tomorrow to consider the Iraqi complaint against Iran for refusing to respond to the initiatives to end the war between the two countries, now in its sixth year. (See story page 4)

Moda'i won't 'mix politics and economics'

By AVI TEMKIN
and ASHER WALLFISH
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i last night told a convention of accountants and tax consultants that he was not interested in "politics, but in stabilizing the economy and bringing about its recovery."

Moda'i said that he had no personal quarrels with Premier Peres. "As finance minister, I have always been careful not to raise political issues at the expense of real economic needs."

"I will not mix politics with economic considerations. If, heaven forbid, elections are held this year and I am finance minister, I will not engage in election economics."

Moda'i will confer with the Likud chief, Vice-Premier Shamir, this morning to coordinate a joint stand in the Refuseniks roll call.

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Talks in Amman and Cairo seek to end impasse

Post Middle East Staff

King Hussein of Jordan and top Egyptian official Osama al-Baz, discussed in Amman yesterday the outcome of President Hosni Mubarak's recent talks in Cairo with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mubarak's meeting with Arafat yesterday was adjourned until today pending al-Baz's return to Cairo. The talks are focused on ways to break the stalemate in Middle East peace efforts.

No statements have been issued at the Cairo talks but according to the BBC's Arabic service, Arafat has asked Egypt to convey to the U.S. government three formulae that would enable the PLO to join the peace process.

Arafat declined to reveal anything

about these formulae. But he has described as "positive" and "a step forward" the recent U.S. statement that the problem of the Palestinians was more than a refugee issue. Earlier he had voiced suspicions concerning the American statement. The BBC said that Mubarak sent these formulae to Hussein with al-Baz, head of Mubarak's political bureau, for consideration before the Cairo talks could go ahead.

Arafat is sticking to his position on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. Palestinian sources in Cairo indicated. They said Arafat reiterated in the talks that the Palestinian leadership would only accept the resolutions in return for the guaranteed recognition of the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

Shamir urges Jews still in Lebanon to get out

Jerusalem Post Reporter

KFAR TAVOR. — Israel has urged the remaining Jews in Lebanon to leave, and "if they still want to get out, we can help them," Vice Premier Shamir said here yesterday.

Shamir was responding to the murder of a Lebanese Jew over the weekend, the third such killing in the last two months. A group calling itself the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth has taken responsibility for all the slayings.

Shamir, speaking to high school pupils in this Galilee town, said he couldn't understand why any Jews had remained in Lebanon. "What are they doing there?" he asked. "Why are they sitting there? They had many chances to leave."

Shamir said Israel "would respond to the killings. The killers will pay for their deeds."

Celebrities lead UK protest for Soviet Jews

By JERRY LEWIS
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — Actors, politicians, writers and clergymen staged a protest outside London's National Theatre yesterday, reading the names of over 9,000 Russian Jews who have been refused exit from the Soviet Union.

On a windy wintry day with temperatures below zero, nearly two hundred personalities of stage, cinema, religion and politics participated in the Refuseniks roll call.

Organiser, British playwright Tom Stoppard, expressed himself well pleased at the interest shown not only by the public but especially the press and radio and TV. Live TV coverage started at dawn.

The aim is to put pressure on the Russians to release Jews who want to

leave the country. We feel the Russians are sensitive to public opinion," said Arie Handler, chairman of Britain's National Council for Soviet Jewry. He said the day-long roll call was meant to alert Soviet opinion to the issue before the Soviet Union's Communist Party congress begins later this month.

"The world of art and letters is putting pressure on Gorbachev today," Handler said as the roll call began.

The first reader was Mishu Volkhansky, 19, who was allowed out of the Soviet Union in 1979 after a four-year campaign by his mother in the West to get him free. "The pressure on the Russians to allow more Jews out will come from public opinion in the West rather than from within the country," he said.

U.S. Senator Bill Bradley flew to London just to read one page of names before returning home. "We should not shy away from the fact that the Soviets are not adhering to the Helsinki Accords," Bradley said.

"There is a hope that the Soviets will change their policy towards Soviet Jews. But it is equally important to remind the world that the regime has not changed," Bradley said.

The first to appear at dawn were British comedy actor Peter Bowles and British author Richard Adams. "There is a spiritual value in the sacrifices we are all making today. Perhaps the Russians will take notice," Adams said.

The list of readers included British opposition Labour Party leader Neil

Kinnock.

David Owen of the Social Democrats and David Steel, the Liberals' leader also attended. Steel told The Post the concept of a roll call was "most imaginative" and provided a "dramatic impact." As had been seen with Shecharansky, he added, "when public pressure is maintained we can have success."

The list of participants itself was a roll call of the British stage and screen, including Lord (Lawrence) Olivier, Edward Fox, Susannah York, and Sir Michael Hordern, from the world of music Tim Rice, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Pete Townshend, Frankie Vaughan and Johnny Dankworth, and writers Margaret Drabble, Jack Rosenthal, Kingsley Amis, Arnold Wesker and Alan Sillitoe.

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	17.2.86	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	-4	-1	3	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	-4	-1	3	Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	18	14	22	Cloudy
CHICAGO	-3	-10	2	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	-4	-1	3	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	-4	-1	3	Cloudy
GENEVA	-4	-1	3	Cloudy
HONGKONG	14	17	16	Cloudy
JERUSALEM	15	11	19	Cloudy
LONDON	-4	-1	3	Cloudy
MADRID	9	3	15	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-18	-9	-23	Cloudy
NEW YORK	-5	-2	8	Cloudy
OSLO	-15	-9	-23	Cloudy
PARIS	-4	-1	3	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	18	14	22	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	-4	-1	3	Cloudy
TOKYO	-1	3	9	Cloudy
TORONTO	-9	-16	-2	Cloudy
VIENNA	-4	-1	3	Cloudy
ZURICH	-4	-1	3	Cloudy

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, light rain possible.

Jerusalem	50	7-13	11
Golan	52	-12	12
Nahariya	52	-10	18
Safed	42	-4-9	8
Haifa Port	64	13-17	18
Tiberias	56	9-18	18
Nazareth	54	8-13	13
Alula	54	12-17	17
Shomron	61	6-14	13
Tel Aviv	67	11-18	18
B-G Airport	33	7-17	18
Jericho	56	9-18	19
Gaza	62	10-17	19
Beersheba	42	7-18	19
Eilat	40	12-22	23

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Jerusalem Trio is giving a benefit recital at 8:30 tonight on behalf of the Israel Lung and Tuberculosis League under the patronage of Health Minister Mordechai Gur at the YMCA in Jerusalem.

ARRIVALS

Annette Dulzin, from a week of lectures in Madrid and Barcelona, on behalf of Keren Hayod.

Haim Badihi, veteran settler, dies at 98

TEL AVIV (Itim). - Haim Badihi, a member of the first Asefat Haniwharim, the supreme organ of the Jewish community during the British Mandate, and a Distinguished Citizen of Tel Aviv, died yesterday, aged 98. He immigrated to this country from Yemen before World War I.

2,000 at funeral of alleged killer

NETANYA (Itim). - Close to 2,000 Jews originating in the Caucasus came here yesterday from all over the country to bury Asher Asherov, a member of their community who was shot and killed last Thursday as he held a policeman hostage in the Netanyahu police lock-up.

Imposing Maccabi

By DON GOULD
The champions were in champion form last night. Maccabi Tel Aviv sparked off their National League basketball playoff series in spectacular fashion, blasting unhappy Maccabi Ramat Gan 153-100 at the Yehuda stadium.

Ancient boat recovered as U.S. envoy looks on

Jerusalem Post Reporter KIBBUTZ GINNOSAR - U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering and local and foreign television crews watched yesterday as archaeologists lifted most of an ancient wooden boat out of the bottom of Lake Kinneret.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Libyan 'madness' may be behind Chad offensive

Is Gaddafi at it again?
Following yesterday's air raid on the airport in the Chadian capital of N'djamena by a Soviet-made bomber, which France identified as a Libyan jet, the answer would appear to be yes.

If a new Libyan-backed rebel offensive against the government of President Hissene Habre is in the offing its aim would be to give the upper hand in the conflict with Habre to the rebel group Gunt (Gouvernement de l'unité nationale) led by Goukouni Oueddei, according to Ya'acov Shimoni, an Arab affairs expert. But it is also possible that the latest rebel attacks, which began last week, are madness without method, and that they represent a bout of Libyan irrationality.

Gaddafi is interested in toppling Habre because he opposes Libyan aspirations in the region. Foremost among these is Libya's desire for

ANALYSIS

RON JOURARD

Chadian recognition of its 1973 annexation of the Aozou Strip in the far north of Chad.

Libya naturally wants to secure its southern hinterland, and would prefer a friendly - if not a puppet - government in N'djamena as an ally against Western interests and against other rival African countries.

Libya also seeks to advance Moslem interests in the region. It therefore would like to control Chad, whose population is roughly split between Moslems and Christians. For the same reason it would like to control neighbouring Niger and Mali, which are both predominantly

Moslem.
Though Goukouni's rebels have not openly supported Libya's annexation of the Aozou Strip, Gaddafi, who has the rebels "in his hand," feels they would be more responsive to Libyan needs.

France, meanwhile, has committed itself to Habre's government, and French prestige, therefore, rides on its continued survival.

France has sent 2,100 troops to Chad from the Central African Republic over the past few days.

The conflict in Chad is a delicate matter for France. French President Francois Mitterrand was deeply embarrassed when Libya kept several thousand troops in Chad in violation of the mutual withdrawal agreement concluded between Paris and Tripoli in September 1984.

kilometres north of N'djamena. The present offensive, of course, violates that accord.

Chad, one of the poorest countries in tropical Africa, is not economically important to France. But France still sees itself as the protecting power for French-speaking West Africa, and as responsible for its peace and progress. "Imperial interests," says Shimoni, "die hard."

France also sees itself as the guardian of the region's Christians.

The U.S. would also oppose a new Libyan-backed rebel offensive, for it is loath to see any increase in Libyan power and prestige.

A strong rebel offensive could unsettle Habre. A Moslem and a northerner, he does not enjoy the full support of the country's Christians.

Besides, no ruler of Chad can exercise firm control so long as the country is riven by rebellion.

Interior Minister critical of 'exaggerated business tax'

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz complained yesterday about the large discrepancy in the municipal business tax between one town and another, and said that the "exaggerated business tax reflects the arbitrary manner in which some mayors run their towns."

Peretz told the Interior Committee that "some mayors just do whatever they like when it comes to business taxes. We are checking the problem, and we shall issue instructions accordingly to the municipal authorities."

The minister said that municipal rates on dwellings do not come under the price freeze regulations, according to the Justice Ministry and

the Interior Ministry's legal adviser. He said there was no alternative to the increase of 170 percent in *amona* (municipal rates) on dwellings, mainly as a result of Treasury pressure.

Most members of the committee inveighed against the increase in the business tax, and also criticized the 170 per cent rise in *amona* on dwellings.

Later in the afternoon, the committee issued a recommendation to Peretz to issue fresh instructions to the local authorities limiting the increase in all *amona* rates to a maximum of 100 per cent.

Ratepayers could not afford a higher increase, because of wage erosion and the general economic situation, the committee said.

Panel to weigh need for Ashdod-Eilat railroad

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

A public committee is about to be appointed to consider the feasibility of building a railroad from Ashdod port to Eilat, Transport Minister Haim Corfu told the Knesset yesterday. The committee will be asked to submit its conclusions within three months.

He said that it has been decided to change the status of the railway from a government-supported unit to a corporate body. But there will be an interim period in which a "railway council" will function, consisting of representatives of the Ports Authority, the government, and Israel Chemicals.

The council will determine policy on the development of the railway. Corfu said that under the present system the rational development of

the railway is being impeded.

Discussing his ministry's plans in the context of the budget debate, Corfu noted that in many countries a tax on petrol is the main source of funds for road development and maintenance. He said it is "unthinkable" that the subject of fuel prices should be discussed without the participation of the Transport Ministry.

"Nothing would be fairer than to levy such a tax in Israel, since the payer of the tax is also the beneficiary of the improved roads," he said.

Corfu said that the present "fragmentation" of authority and responsibility for road planning is responsible for the neglect of road planning in the Greater Tel Aviv and Greater Haifa areas. The establishment of "a single overall framework" for road planning and development is a must, he declared.

'Mormon's letter' to fight Mormons

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

MK Abraham Verdiger (Morasha) yesterday used a letter from a Mormon in the U.S., alleging fears about Mormon missionary work in Israel, in order to prove the contrary.

Verdiger's communiqué to the press said the letter was signed by "the president of the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City." But the text of the letter Verdiger released is

signed "A Mormon."

The letter says that Mormons are "sincerely willing to postpone the missionary work in Israel as long as you find it necessary."

It also says that "it is important for you to understand that your Mormon brothers deeply respect the Jewish people and would do nothing to jeopardize the feelings of mutual cooperation."

(See story, page 3)

Rethink on Oh Calcutta ban

By BERNARD JOSEPHS
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Film and Stage Censorship Board has decided to reconsider its ban on the nude musical *Oh Calcutta!*.

The board's chairman Yehoshua Justman said it will give a hearing to New York producer Norman Kean who is here to fight the ban.

Kean told a news conference in Tel Aviv he was "incensed that my musical, which so many people have seen, has been censored by someone."

He said he would try to persuade the 20-member board that *Oh Calcutta* has "redeeming social values. It's a no-holds barred presentation which makes sex funny and understandable."

If the board refused to change its opinion, Kean said, he would petition the Supreme Court to overturn the ruling.

Oh Calcutta, with its eight-member Broadway cast, is scheduled for five weeks of performances

here starting March 26. Said Kean: "Every person over the age of 18 should have the free choice to decide whether he wants to see it or not."

Justman said the board had agreed to "think again" about the decision which was based on the view that the show is "pornographic and obscene."

He said "We reached our decision to ban *Oh Calcutta* after viewing a video cassette of the show. There were some board members who had their doubts, but most were clearly against allowing the show to be staged here."

"I left after the first part of the video, but then I'd seen the show before, several years ago in New York. I didn't like it much then either."

However, Justman stressed, the final verdict on *Oh Calcutta* will not be based on whether members of the board enjoy it but on whether it "offends moral norms."

Justman denied that the board came under religious or political pressure to ban the show.

Racism, terrorism bills in plenum today

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

The plenum will today hear the second and third readings of the amendment to the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, which is intended to prohibit contacts between Israelis and officials of the PLO and similar bodies.

In what is seen as a package deal, the plenum will also hear the second and third readings of an amendment to the Criminal Code, making it an offence to publish incitement to racism.

The coalition executive yesterday reaffirmed an earlier decision obliging all coalition members to vote for both measures as they stand, and not

support any of the alternative drafts tabled by various opposition MKs.

The executive agreed that should any coalition MK support an opposition draft on any paragraph of either measure, none of the coalition factions would need to remain committed to total support for both measures.

This proviso means, in theory, that should any Likud MK stray from the committee version of the amendment prohibiting publication of incitement to racism, many Alignment MKs would refrain from supporting the committee version of the measure prohibiting contacts with PLO officials.

A move to destroy suspects' houses

By BARBARA AMOUYAL
For The Jerusalem Post

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev has asked Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir to seek legal means to destroy the homes of suspects being held for the murder of Abraham Bayazid, the chief intelligence officer at the Kishle police station in the Old City.

In the past, only the houses of security offenders have been demolished. However, no houses have been destroyed in Jerusalem in recent years, not even in security cases.

According to Bar-Lev, Bayazid's murder, although an underworld act not connected to any security affair, constituted a serious crime "that

even the maximum penalty of life imprisonment cannot erase."

Bar-Lev insisted that destroying the homes of those suspected of Bayazid's murder would serve as a deterrent to other Arab underworld figures who "dare to contemplate the gangster-like killing of an Israeli police officer."

Four suspects in the Bayazid murder including prime suspect Omar Faraj, live in Silwan village, next to the Old City.

CORRECTION
HAIFA. - Zim's estimated net profit for 1985 was \$8.2 million and not \$84m. as reported yesterday.



Basil F. Bolt

Suchinda Yangsunthorn

New Zealand, Thai envoys accredited

The new ambassadors of New Zealand and Thailand presented their credentials to President Herzog in separate ceremonies yesterday.

Both are non-resident ambassadors.

New Zealand Ambassador Basil Franklin Bolt is an experienced diplomat, having served as an envoy of his country in Hungary, Poland, Romania, West Germany, Austria and Switzerland. While serving as

ambassador to Israel, he will reside in The Hague and continue to be New Zealand's ambassador to Sweden and the Netherlands.

President Herzog is expected to visit New Zealand this fall as part of a trip to Oceania and the Far East.

The new ambassador of Thailand, Suchinda Yangsunthorn, 50, is resident in Rome, and previously served as director-general of his government's department of legal affairs.

Education Ministry to ask court to ban teachers' strike

By JOEL REBIBO
For The Jerusalem Post

The Education Ministry is to ask the Labour Court in Jerusalem today or tomorrow to restrain the Secondary School Teachers' Association from shutting down the country's 12th grade classes on Sunday.

"The union is party to the general wage agreement signed between the government and the Histadrut and is bound by it until the end of March," Ministry spokesman Yisrael Cohen told *The Jerusalem Post* last night. "A strike is a breach of contract," he said.

On February 3, Association head Shoshana Bayer announced that a series of warning strikes would be launched across the country, culminating in a complete shutdown of the 12th grade by February 23 unless the

Treasury renews wage negotiations. This morning more than 5,000 pupils in the North, including Kiryat Shmuna, Nazareth, Safad, and Tiberias, will begin classes at 10:30.

Repeated requests from Minister Yitzhak Navon and Director-General Eliezer Shmueli to Bayer to stop the strike have been ignored, Cohen said.

"In principle, we agree with the teachers that their wages have been eroded more than in other sectors," said Cohen. "But there is no chance that the Treasury will negotiate with them now, so the only effect of the strike will be to hurt pupils."

Bayer said that the latest ministry move is "easier than seeking a constructive solution," but that if the court order is issued the union will honour it.

Gindi pleads 'not guilty' in West Bank land fraud

By BARBARA AMOUYAL
For The Jerusalem Post

Avraham Gindi, the Tel Aviv-based contractor charged with fraudulent West Bank land sales, breach of trust, tampering with evidence, and attempts to suborn witnesses, pleaded not guilty yesterday in the Tel Aviv District Court.

Gindi has been in police custody since December 1, despite numerous appeals to be released on bail till the end of legal proceedings against him. Police escorts accompanying Gindi to the sixth floor judge's chambers were careful to use the stairs, thus bypassing the corridor windows from which the contractor tried to jump in a suicide attempt over a month ago.

Gindi admitted yesterday that several points made in the five-page charge sheet were indeed true, yet persisted in his plea of not guilty.

He said that he had offered plots of land in the West Bank settlements of Kila'un and Lev Hashmon-Kramim at below market prices, with convenient terms, and that the full-page newspaper advertisements at the start of his campaign elicited great public interest. But he denied charges of false advertising. He said that, to the best of his knowledge, he

had obtained all the government approval necessary to initiate such a campaign.

Gindi also denied prosecution charges that his two companies dealing in the West Bank settlements were not legally registered with the Interior Ministry.

Gindi admitted that he had cancelled contract agreements in November, 1983 and March, 1984 with the Shamai and Dekel companies, but denied that he failed to inform his clients of the cancellation and that he continued collecting money, insisting that the land would soon be developed as promised.

Gindi also pleaded not guilty to charges that he had purposefully falsified evidence with intent to throw off police investigators. Prosecuting attorneys Rachel Shiver and Dorit Shapira charged that Gindi asked land dealer Shmuel Einav, owner of the Dekel company, to sign false contracts clearing him from incriminating land deals with Einav.

Over 67 witnesses are slated to appear for the prosecution against Gindi, among them former clients and West Bank land dealers Einav and Avraham Shamai.

The decision on the date of the trial was postponed until next week.

Peres asks Zamir to rule on demolitions

Prime Minister Shimon Peres

yesterday requested Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir's opinion on how to proceed with the demolition of illegal structures in the Arab sector.

Peres noted in a letter to Zamir that many court orders for the demolition of such buildings had not been implemented over the years, and that an interministerial committee had recently been appointed to

examine the question.

Last week Justice Minister Moshe Nissim complained to Peres that Minister-without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman had intervened in several cases to prevent demolition orders from being carried out.

Peres asked Zamir to rule on how to proceed with the demolition orders until the committee finishes its work. (Itim).

We mourn the passing of our dear

RENATE GRUENBAUM

Widow of Dr. Heinz Gruenbaum

Tommy, Ann, Oren and Ronan Gruenbaum
Bach, Dagan, Shikmoni and Benscher Families

The funeral took place in London.

To Leon Brenner

Deepest sympathy on the death of your father

Dan Ben Shmuel E. Brenner

of Krashnik

Israel Association of former Residents of Krashnik and District

Darche Noam/David Shapell College
and
Midreshet Rachel/College for Women

express their deepest sympathies to their colleague and teacher

Rabbi Yisroel Wohlgelernter,
his wife Devorah,
and their family

at the conclusion of the Shiva
for their beloved daughter

CHANNAH PEREH

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

With deep sorrow, we announce the death in London on February 14, 1986, of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

HUGO (Bubi) BRUCK

aged 95.

Aristia (Tutzi) Bruck
Adrian and Miriam Bruck
Lya and Paul Lynton
Robert, Michael and Sandra

501 من الاربعين

In wake of S. Africa's bloody weekend

Death toll rises, hundreds held

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — At least 13 people died and nearly 700 were arrested in one of South Africa's bloodiest weekends since rioting began two years ago. And yesterday two more people were killed.

The violence was reported from racially-segregated townships across the nation.

Five blacks died in Alexandra near Johannesburg, a poor township on the edge of affluent white suburbs. In two days of fierce fighting between riot police firing shotguns and tear gas and crowds of roaming black youths, a police tally showed.

Police said the violence, which began after a funeral on Saturday, continued overnight with crowds stoning and petrol bombing riot patrols, government offices, buses, cars, factories and business premises.

Police opened fire, killing a man in the hut where another hand grenade and a Makarov pistol were found, the statement said.

The riots took the death toll to over 1,110 since the first victim in the current cycle of unrest was killed on February 13, 1984.

Over 100 people have died this year despite emergency rule clamped on riot-torn areas last July to contain the unrest.

Police in armoured vehicles ringed Alexandra yesterday while combined police and army foot patrols ranged through the dusty township.

A small clinic, which normally provides basic health care for blacks, was turned into an emergency casualty centre to which a convoy of ambulances carried victims of the unrest, eyewitnesses said.

In other overnight violence police firing pistols killed a black woman when they dispersed about 250 blacks marching on white suburbs of Graaff-Reinet in Cape Province. Seven other people were killed in scattered incidents across the country.

Police said they arrested 641 people holding an alleged illegal gathering near Johannesburg, and fired shotguns and tear gas to disperse rampaging crowds. Witnesses said those arrested were jobseekers who had arranged meetings with potential employers.

In Cape Town, three members of a commonwealth group trying to promote dialogue between the white-dominated government and the 74 per cent black majority met Foreign Minister Pik Botha and Constitutional Development Minister Chris Heunis.

But the trio — former Australian prime minister Malcolm Fraser, ex-Nigerian head of state General Olusegun Obasanjo and World Council of Churches president Dame Nita Barrow — kept a low profile and avoided contact with the media.

Police were meanwhile investigating an explosion at a black township near Pretoria in which an anti-riot armoured vehicle was damaged.

Local press reports said it might have run over a mine, which would be the first known use of the device in black-township unrest. Police could not confirm this.

follow up operation at nearby New Brighton, police were fired on with an AK-47 rifle.

They returned fire, killing one man, and they arrested another. A policeman was shot four times in the leg.

In another incident in the township of Little Soweto, a hand grenade was hurled at police when they entered a wooden hut. One policeman suffered shrapnel wounds to his arms and legs.

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A truck burns during violence in the streets of the black township Alexandra yesterday. (AFP)

Eyewitness account

Key Iraq port in Iran's hands

FAW, Iraq (AFP). — Iranian troops and civilians ready to die for Islam, patrol this southern port overrun in a major offensive a week ago. But Iraqi fighters planes thundering overhead and nearby gunfire show the struggle is still fierce for this vital strip of land along the Gulf.

Black smoke from the flaming Iraqi oil refinery here pumps into the sky, giving cover to Iranian troops from the Iraqi fighters patrolling overhead. According to Teheran, Iraq's own planes bombed the refinery.

Bodies of the Iraqi soldiers killed in the overnight offensive a week ago still lie in the streets and most buildings in this city bear battle scars.

Iraq and Iran have fought for Faw for more than five years. It is strategically located on the strip of Iraq between Kuwait and Iran that borders the Gulf, and 65 kilometres down the Shatt-al-Arab waterway from the main Iraqi port of Basra.

Debris of the various battles — burnt-out cars and gutted houses — scars the city, decorated with a banner reading "Welcome to al Faw" to greet foreign correspondents.

Their military guides, miniature portraits of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini pinned to their chests, burn a U.S. flag to the frenzied cries of "Death to America."

An officer told AFP that Iran was already preventing Iraqi boats from operating in the Khawr abd-Allah Strait between Faw and the Kuwaiti island of Jazirat Rubiyan.

In Faw, soldiers piled in Toyota pick-up trucks parade while volunteers bunch together at up to four per motorcycle, flaunting their red and green head bands that signal their readiness to be martyrs for Islam.

Iranian soldiers seem in full control of the city and are manning Iraq's Soviet-made weapons and Czechoslovak-made anti-aircraft artillery.

As correspondents toured the town, however, an Iraqi MiG-25 ripped through the sky to drop a bomb that landed 500 metres away.

According to Teheran, some 12,700 Iraqi soldiers were killed or injured in the offensive that captured some 850 square kilometres of land in southern Iraq. Almost 1,000 Iraqis were taken prisoner.

Iran took the city in an overnight attack that the Iraqi prisoners confess took them "totally by surprise." That night another attack on the island of Umm al-Rasas, north of Faw, in the Shatt-al-Arab waterway served as a diversion, the Iranian military official said.

Now Teheran plans to forge ahead towards southern Iraq. An Iranian revolutionary guard told AFP that Iranian troops had advanced 18 kilometres northward towards Basra and 14 kilometres northwest toward Umm al-Qasr.

Iranian soldiers are building a dyke across the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, on the southeast border between Iran from Iraq, to bring long-range artillery and tanks across.

Teheran's aim is to put pressure on the Arab nations in the Gulf and on the Security Council to condemn Baghdad.

But Iranian officials refuse to comment on the military strategy, apparently aimed at choking the Iraqi economy by cutting off its access to the Gulf.

SPORTS

English stars to shine here

LONDON (Reuters). — England manager Bobby Robson resisted temptation to make any late experiments in his preparations for Mexico yesterday when he named an experienced squad for next week's World Cup warm-up match against Israel. Robson recalled his namesake and captain Bryan Robson of Manchester United and included midfielder Peter Reid of Everton in a 22-man party, which, apart from the inclusion of young Newcastle striker Peter Beardsley, has a definite "World Cup" look about it.

Reid returns after lengthy Achilles tendon problems following an injury during England's draw with Romania last September. But AC Milan striker Mark Hateley, who will have a tonsils operation on Saturday, has been replaced by the squad. He has been replaced by midfielder Gordon Cowans of Bari, who was a late replacement member of England's squad in Egypt last month.

Beardsley, who made a brief appearance as substitute in Egypt, has held his place in the squad, but Steve Hodge, Stewart Robson, Dave Watson, Ricky Hill and Danny Wallace are all discarded.

The England squad: Goalkeepers — Peter Shilton (Southampton), Gary Birtles (Sheff Wed), Chris Woods (Newcastle City).

Defence — Viv Anderson (Aston Villa), Gary Stevens (Everton), Kenny Sanson (Aston Villa), Terry Butcher (Ipswich), Alvin Martin (West Ham), Mark Wright (Southampton), Terry Fenwick (QPR).

Midfield — Bryan Robson (Manchester United), Peter Reid (Everton), Trevor Steven (Everton), Ray Wilkins (AC Milan), Gordon Hiddle (Tottenham), Gordon Cowans (Bari).

Forwards — Gary Lineker (Everton), Kerry Dixon (Chelsea), Tony Woodcock (Aston Villa), Peter Beardsley (Newcastle), Chris Waddle (Tottenham), John Barnes (Watford).

In Bonn, West Germany, national soccer manager Franz Beckenbauer revealed yesterday that he plans to spy on his World Cup opponents by using a helicopter to whisk him around Mexico in June.

Koch again

SENFTENBERG, East Germany (AFP). — The great Marita Koch broke her own world indoor record for the women's 200 metres at an athletics meeting here.

The 28-year-old, who broke her 16th world record outdoors when she set a new 400m. time at the World Cup in Canberra last October, sped round the fast Senftenberg track in 22.33 sec.

That was six-hundredths of a second faster than she ran at the 1983 European Indoor Championships in Budapest in March, 1983.

She set a world record for 60m. indoors on the same track a year ago.

Koch, unable to defend her 1980 Olympic 400m. title because of the East European boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles games, is still unsure about whether to delay her retirement until after this year's European Championships in Stuttgart in September.

Celtic June

NEW YORK (AP). — It's February, but it looked like June. Sunday's Celtics-Lakers game, reminiscent of the last two NBA Championship series, had three shoving matches in the second quarter before the two teams settled down. Boston won 105-99 to sweep the two-game regular-season matchups.

"Boston made the plays when they had to," the Lakers' Pat Riley said. "I'm sure they feel good about themselves with their two wins. But the playoffs are a long way off."

Elsewhere in the NBA, it was Atlanta 110, Portland 101; San Antonio 113, Sacramento 94; and Dallas 120, Chicago 114.

Midway through the second period, Lakers guard Byron Scott had to be restrained after receiving a technical for throwing the ball at Boston's Jerry Sichting. Less than a minute later, another shoving match started when Greg Kite of the Celtics fouled Michael Cooper from behind. Kite also got technicals for fouling Scott less than a minute before halftime when he knocked Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to the floor with another foul.

Dennis Johnson scored 23 points and Larry Bird added 22 points, 18 rebounds and seven assists for Boston, but the key to the game was provided by three Boston reserves who had good performances.

Centre Bill Walton had 16 points, seven rebounds and three assists in 14 minutes for Portland, who was hampered by foul trouble. Sichting had 11 points, nine of them in an eight-minute span in the second quarter to help the Celtics open a seven-point lead.

Romanians tops

By PAUL KOHN
TEL AVIV. — Romanian wrestlers took five first places and Israel three top spots in the International Wrestling tournament held in Beersheba over the weekend. Sixty-four wrestlers from seven countries participated.

Dov Gruber (48 kg.), Moshe Orenman (62 kg.) and Reuven Konashvili (74 kg.) were the Israel winners.

The other winners were Philip Secund of France, Tibor Szibosh of Hungary and the Romanians Nicolai Zampfir, Konstantin Ote, Hahab Mateh, Andrei Vassila and Vion Grigoresch (130 kg.).

A triangular tournament involving West Germany, Austria and Israel will take place tonight at Hapoel Rishon LeZion.

SCOREBOARD

CRICKET. — England beat Jamaica by 158 runs. England 271 and 177 for 5 dec. Jamaica 222 and 168. (Edwards 4 for 44.) Northern Districts 167 for 2 dec. Australia 45 for 0.

RUGBY. — France drew with Great Britain 10-10 in Avignon.

GOLF. — Corey Pavin (272) won the Honda Open, two strokes ahead of Tom Watson. Gary Player (281) won the PGA Senior title, followed by Eldrick.

TENNIS. — Milan Sejber, of Czechoslovakia, 2.03m. tall, has beaten both Boris Becker and David Pate, to make him the surprise of the Lipton International Players Championship. Lendl, Wiliander, Chris Lloyd, Potter, Graf, Rinaldi, Sagasti, Garrison and Sakora all won.

Habib in talks with Marcos, Aquino

MANILA (Reuters). — U.S. envoy Philip Habib met President Ferdinand Marcos and opposition leader Corason Aquino in separate meetings yesterday as he assessed the political situation in the Philippines after disputed elections.

Marcos said in a statement that Habib assured him he was not in Manila to interfere in Philippine affairs. An Aquino spokesman said she gave the veteran troubleshooter "an earful" of advice and told him she would press her claim to the presidency.

Aquino said yesterday she was the rightful president of the Philippines and pledged to intensify efforts to topple Marcos.

In the first of a series of radio broadcasts, she said Marcos stole the February 7 election from her through fraud and violence.

In other developments, a group of

reform-minded military officers appealed yesterday to their "brothers in uniform" not to mistreat or use force on "innocent and freedom-loving Filipinos" in the aftermath of the election.

The military officers, members of the "Reform armed forces of the Philippines" movement, said there were "serious indications that the people's will had been thwarted" by fraud, terrorism and murder.

The semi-secret reform group, which claims that 60 per cent of the entire junior officer corps are members, was launched early last year with the avowed aim of removing graft and corruption and professionalizing the 250,000-strong military.

Also yesterday about 1,000 University of the Philippines faculty and students said they would boycott classes indefinitely to protest "milit-

ary atrocities" related to the election.

Banking sources said there were heavy withdrawals from the banks yesterday and San Miguel brewery and food company shares dropped by an average three pesos (15 U.S. cents) per share on the stock exchange following Aquino's call to Filipinos to boycott the Marcos-backed banks and company.

Meanwhile, General Fabian Ver will stay on as Philippine armed forces chief of staff until March 1, the presidential palace said yesterday.

Marcos announced on Sunday that Ver, his cousin and close confidant, had resigned and that his deputy, lieutenant-general Fidel Ramos, also a relative, would take over as acting chief. (AP, Reuters, AFP)

Kohl accused of lying

BONN. (Reuters). — State prosecutors in Coblenz said yesterday they were opening legal proceedings against West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl over allegations that he gave false testimony to a parliamentary corruption inquiry.

Prosecutor Hans Seeliger said the proceedings were based on charges by Otto Schily, a leader of the opposition Green's Party, that Kohl misled a probe by the state Parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate into illegal party donations.

The decision announced 11 months ahead of West German elections, marked the first time in more than 20 years that an incumbent chancellor has been under investigation by state prosecutors.

Schily has alleged that Kohl, who appeared before the corruption probe last July, gave false testimony when he said he was unaware that a private research foundation was used to channel funds to his Christian Democratic Party.

Kohl has dismissed Schily's charges and called them "mud-slinging" at the start of the campaign for next January's election, in which the centre-right coalition appears to have strong chances of being returned to office.

The State Prosecutor's Office in Bonn said yesterday it was examining a second charge by Schily that Kohl gave false testimony to a Bonn parliamentary probe in 1984 when he denied receiving party donations from the giant Flick concern.

U.S. space chief 'removed'

WASHINGTON. (AFP). — The head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has been removed, after coming under fire in the wake of last month's U.S. shuttle explosion in which all seven crewmembers were killed.

Nasa spokesman Charles Redmond said that the "Responsibilities" of Philip Culbertson, 48 had been "altered significantly," but added that he had not been dismissed.

A presidential panel studying the Challenger disaster concluded at the weekend that Nasa was probably mistaken in allowing the shuttle mission to go ahead and criticized the "flaws" in the decision-making process. Nasa has also come under criticism for failing to ensure key safety factors in the shuttle's construction.

Culbertson has worked for Nasa for 20 years, and prior to his appointment as director-general 2 months ago had chaired the White House advisory commission on arms control and disarmament.

Meanwhile a mini-submarine scouring the Atlantic has located debris believed to be part of a booster rocket which may have caused Challenger to explode. Nasa announced.

The sub spotted and photographed what were thought to be remains of Challenger's right booster rocket at a depth of more than 350 metres.

FOREIGN NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet official, teacher defect in Greece

ATHENS (AP). — A Soviet shipping expert and a schoolteacher from the Soviet mission's school in Athens defected here last week, police sources said yesterday.

The sources identified the two as Viktor Goudarev, 50, and Galina Grumova, 30, and said Goudarev reportedly worked for Soviet military intelligence.

"This looks like a romantic entanglement," the sources said. The two disappeared last Friday, together with Goudarev's 8-year-old son, the sources said.

Church forms company to vet papal souvenirs

SYDNEY (Reuters). — The Roman Catholic church has formed a company — the Papal Visit Ltd. — to ensure that souvenirs sold during Pope John Paul's trip to Australia in November meet "desirable standards in quality, price and taste."

Church Officials said establishment of the company is expected to curb sales of pirated souvenirs which could affect royalty payments to the church. "The papal visit wants to ensure that souvenirs of the visit are freely available, but we don't want any junk," a church spokesman said.

Portugal's 1st elected chief in 60 years

Soares president by a hair's breadth

LISBON. — Mario Soares, a three-time Socialist prime minister, narrowly defeated Conservative Diogo Freitas do Amaral for the presidency and vowed to stabilize Portugal's fragmented political system.

With all but 16 of the country's 4,138 precincts reporting early yesterday, Soares tallied 3,012,982 votes, or 51.29 per cent of the total in Sunday's runoff election to Freitas do Amaral's 2,861,485, or 48.71 per cent.

Freitas do Amaral, founder of the Christian Democratic Party, was the top vote-getter among four contenders in the first-round election last month, when he won 46.3 per cent of the vote.

Soares will become the first elected civilian head of state since President Bernardino Machado resigned after a military coup in 1926.

"Based on the results now available, I recognize that Mario Soares has won," the 44-year-old Freitas do Amaral told subdued supporters at his Lisbon campaign headquarters.

Soares had served as prime minister three times. His last term ended with parliamentary elections in October after which Anibal Cavaco Silva and his Social Democratic Par-

ty formed a minority government. The Social Democrats replaced the Socialists as the country's largest party, gaining 29.8 per cent of the vote to the Socialists' 20.7 per cent. The Social Democrats backed Freitas do Amaral in the presidential election.

Although under Portugal's semi-presidential constitution the head of state has no law-making powers, he retains the authority to dismiss the government under certain circumstances and can delay legislation.

Portugal has had 16 governments in the 12 years since the military ended nearly a half-century of rightist dictatorship with a coup. The 61-year-old Soares says he intends to serve as a stabilizing factor.

"I want to send a message of peace and hope to all Portuguese without exception," Soares told thousands of jubilant, flag-waving supporters from a balcony of his campaign headquarters after his victory.

"I will do all I can to cooperate with other branches of government, especially the cabinet," said Soares, adding he acknowledged that parliament was the "heart of Portugal's democratic system."

He counts as one of his greatest



Mario Soares

triumphs the securing of Portugal's entry to the European Community last January 1. As prime minister in 1977, he made the country's application to join and as leader of another government last year he signed the final accession papers.

He has long nursed an ambition to become president and when his two-year-old coalition collapsed last June, he put all his energies into preparing for the presidential race. (AP, Reuters)

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**MY OWN PERCH/Helga Dudman**

IT'S A very good read, though no
suppose, for everybody. The
justification for such a book, it se
to me, is the manner in which it
expand the horizons of Migdal.
the data in the average guideb

In early Christian communities, some women were relatively "liberated," Pagels tells us, although "a view toward equality found its support primarily in rich or what would call bohemian circles." By second-century, the Orthodox Christian Church opposed this view and "went with the majority of middle class," while "the influx of many Hellenized Jews into the movement may have influenced

And here is a view direct
England: both Oxford and
bridge have colleges commen-
ing our sinner's name, both
nounced "Maudlin."

Revach also argued that mental health care for disturbed soldiers, when in possession of weapons, sensitive information or authority in the army, could be dangerous. "We don't want them to take actions or make decisions while they are disturbed," he said.

(David Rubinger)

Dr. Zvi Levine, legal adviser to the Health Ministry, asked a little defensively why none of the psychiatrists, who are now so concerned about their patients' privacy, saw fit to complain when journalists visited hospitals to interview and photograph patients. He went on to

ANOTHER LAWYER. Professor Gabriel Kling, pointed out that existing laws deal only with computerized data banks, though most medical and other files are still kept manually. The reason for this is not philosophical but technical, he explained; the committee assigned to draft the parts of the law dealing with computerized data finished its work on time but the committee dealing with manual data did not. He offered the cynical view that the problem could have been solved by requiring all those drafted into the army to sign a waiver of medical confidentiality; they sign so many forms, he said, that it would be surprising if one in a hundred thousand would bother to

Several psychiatrists who have been personally involved in computerizing the Ministry of Health data bank, for its potential value as a research tool, expressed regret that some went so far as to suggest that the data be destroyed so that it could not fall into other hands.

Please send me the book(s) indicated below. Offer valid until February 28, 1988.

<input type="checkbox"/> A Late Divorce	<input type="checkbox"/> Pillar of Fire	<input type="checkbox"/> Judaism A-Z	<input type="checkbox"/> Shanghai Lost,
<input type="checkbox"/> The Miller	<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> With Prejudice	<input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem Regained
<input type="checkbox"/> Macquella	<input type="checkbox"/> New Diplomacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Time of My Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Care of House Plants
<input type="checkbox"/> March of Pity	<input type="checkbox"/> Politics in Israel	<input type="checkbox"/> Street People	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Encyclopedia
<input type="checkbox"/> Road from Babylon	<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon War	<input type="checkbox"/> Legends of Sailed	<input type="checkbox"/> Tora and Flora
<input type="checkbox"/> The Transformation	<input type="checkbox"/> Jews of Israel	<input type="checkbox"/> My Michael	<input type="checkbox"/> Blackwashing in Israel
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebirth of a City		<input type="checkbox"/> Psalmist with a Camera

NAME _____
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Lower oil price aggravates Mexico's situation Latin Americans want drop in interest rate to ease debt load

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — The fresh debt crisis faced by Mexico as a result of lower oil prices is expected to add to Latin American pressure for creditors to lower interest rates, monetary sources and international economists say.

If oil prices stay below \$20 a barrel this year, the region's oil exporters stand to lose some four to five billion dollars, but this would be largely offset if interest rates came down by only one point, it is said.

"Right now the decisions of the G-5 (group of five leading industrial nations) are probably at least as important as oil prices," said one senior economist at an international financial institution in Washington.

The group of five — Britain, France, Japan, the U.S. and West Germany last month stopped short of driving down their interest rates in concert.

At a meeting here last week of the Cartagena group of Latin debtors, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias said plunging oil prices made the reduction of the region's \$4 billion annual interest bill doubly urgent. The issue is to be discussed again in Uruguay this month.

Also, while Brazil, with \$100 billion in foreign debt, stands to save some \$800 million from lower oil prices, one source pointed out, "a

five-dollar cut would mean less for it than just a one-point drop in interest rates."

Other countries such as Argentina, with \$50 billion of foreign debt, face new balance of payments problems this year from lower grain prices, as a result of U.S. legislation last December to cut price support levels for U.S. farmers.

But attention remains focused on Mexico, with alternative plans under review by officials in Washington and Mexico City to help it overcome a drop in oil income of 15 per cent on annual basis since the start of the year alone.

Despite talk of an international rescue package, as in 1982, when central banks, governments and private banks chipped in for Mexico at the start of Latin America's debt crisis, arrangement of bridging finances is more complicated today.

U.S. officials and Federal Reserve Board sources said speculation over a U.S.-led financial rescue package for Mexico was premature.

Several sources said that while action was clearly urgent to relieve Mexico's cash flow position, the answer might lie more in help on its \$10 billion interest bill this year.

"The question that should be asked is whether new money is the right solution this time, or whether

some form of debt relief is needed," said John Williamson, senior fellow at the International Institute for Economics.

The Mexicans have already floated the idea of a 6 per cent lid on interest rates, as opposed to the roughly 10 per cent it expects to pay this year. But some sources said this and talk of new money needs of as much as \$9 billion were probably initial bargaining ploys.

"While there's no doubt they need a lot of money, the Mexicans are quite likely to be trying to scare the banks," Williamson said.

More radical scenarios could include a negotiated write-down of the debt, but the sources said it was premature to speculate until new cash flow projections could be made on the basis of stabilized oil prices.

The \$10-a-barrel drop in spot oil prices in the last few weeks has not only been catastrophic for Mexico but on balance will bring little benefit to the region as a whole. "Most Latin American countries have had considerable success since the 1970s in rationalizing their use of imported oil and will gain relatively little from lower prices," one economist said.

Latin American countries now owe some \$880 billion in foreign debt, about half the total for the entire world.



Protecting the crop from the rain

(Lisa Mifflin)

Cotton growers fighting for \$40 million 'survival loan'

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin is to meet with Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i today in an effort to persuade him to grant the cotton farmers a \$40 million loan. The five-year low-interest loan is needed to tide the cotton growers over their current difficulties.

If Moda'i approves the loans it will then be brought before the Ministerial Finance Committee for approval. Nehamkin is expected to stress the urgency of the matter because the farmers have to start preparing their fields for planting in about six weeks.

Deputy Agriculture Minister MK Avraham Katz-Oz warned at a press conference here yesterday that unless the farmers got this loan, production might drop between 25 and 33 per cent. Total 160,000 to 240,000 dunams of farm land could not be planted this summer and the country would lose about \$60m. Katz-Oz emphasized that \$40m. of this amount would be lost in the exports and \$20m. through the need to import cooking oil and fodder otherwise derived from cotton seeds.

Commenting on reports that cotton was not a profitable crop today, Yossef Doolmy, the general manager of the Cotton Production and Marketing Board, said that this was due to the depressed prices on world markets.

Your money & your questions

By JOSEPH MORGENTHAU
QUESTION — Your recent explanation that the shekel's linkage to the dollar or to the cost-of-living index is the key to the accumulation of \$42 billion in savings, falls short of the mark.

Looking at Weimar Germany during the period of the great inflation of 1922/23, it is commonly accepted theory that millions of Germans would not have turned to Hitler if linkage of their savings had then been in force. Could it not be that some of the \$42b. rightfully belongs in the till of the income tax office? Is it not possible for our government to call back all the dollars, marks and pounds sterling in such a way that the average citizen would not hesitate to deposit his hard currency funds, or is the confidence of the people in the government lost for good?

ANSWER — You have a point. Just one example is salaries. Over the years, employees have been known to pay employees in such a way as to "shelter" them from income tax. Reimbursement of expenses not actually incurred is one of these abuses. Part of such reimbursement could easily have wound up in savings accounts rather than as collected tax. But the prerequisite for the emergence into the open of all these funds and their deposit in bank accounts, must be economic, fiscal and monetary stability. Add to this a

liberal pinch of faith in the government, and you may wind up with a recipe satisfactory to all.

QUESTION — I have in my possession approximately \$40 sterling in silver coins. All of this was minted prior to 1947, and hence contains, I believe, 50 per cent silver. In some instances there are coins from the 19th century and early 20th century, which contain, I think, 90 per cent silver. I doubt that few of these coins are of interest to a serious numismatist, but I may be wrong. Could you advise me as to the current value in terms of silver content of these coins and the most remunerative method of exploiting them?

ANSWER — There are catalogues such as the Standard Catalogue of World Coins, or other similar ones, which indicate market prices for most coins in the world. Israeli banks, such as the Union Bank, and other specialist institutions in Europe, such as the Monetaire, which is part of the Credit Suisse Bank, through which the bank can sell coins, can be of help to you.

CHINA TOURS. — A total of 17.83 million tourists — including from neighbouring Hongkong and Macao — visited China last year, a 39 per cent increase over 1984, the official New China News Agency reported yesterday.

Saudis sign 'oil-for-arms' deal

RIYADH. — Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan yesterday signed a contract for purchase of 132 military aircraft from Britain at a total cost of \$5 billion (\$7b.) it was officially announced here.

Part of the payment is to be made in Saudi crude oil, according to Western diplomatic sources here, but there has been no official reference yet in the Saudi kingdom to this.

The Saudi Defence Ministry announcement said the deal covered the purchase of the 132 fighter and trainer aircraft as well as training and technical assistance programmes and supply of spare parts.

The deal, known to involve 72

Tornado jet fighters and 60 trainer jets, has been described as the biggest-ever British arms deal.

The Tornados are combat fighter bombers manufactured in a joint effort by British Aerospace, with Germany and Italy.

The Financial Times of London reported last week that the sale would be paid for almost entirely by oil, but the British Defence Ministry has refused to confirm or deny the report.

According to the paper, Shell, British Petroleum and the Aramco Oil consortium arranged for oil to be lifted over three years at a rate expected to cover the cost of the aircraft in the first and most substantial phase of the deal. (AP, Reuters)

Linkage extended for NII benefits

By TSIPPI KUPER
For the Jerusalem Post

A last-minute government decision has saved the poor and the handicapped from a 22 per cent cut in benefits.

The government has extended an agreement linking National Insurance Institute benefits to the cost-of-living index for another three months starting from February.

The year-long agreement between the NII and the Treasury, which ran out last month, was intended to protect the benefits of disabled persons, widows, pensioners and the poor from inflation. Previously, benefits were linked to the average wage.

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To arrange an interview, please call Tel. 03-246261.

WHAT'S ON

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 6.90 per line including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 138 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM

MUSEUMS
ISRAEL MUSEUM. Exhibitions: Two Artists, Two Landscapes, works by Shaul Segal and Eli Shadrin; Traditional Jewellery, Permanent Display of Jewish Ethnographic Jewellery (Ancient Mirrors, display of mirrors from different cultures); Contemporary Art from the Museum's Collection, 0 Milestones in Israel Art, major works of this century plus audio-visual programme (Avigdor Arikha Pavilion); Building in Jerusalem, computer games to building with stone ("Nerot Mizrah", Ideas for Light in Jewish Ritual); The Cosmic and the Divine, Andean textiles; 0 PlaceScope: 14 artists present versions of surrounding landscapes; Pelel Center, near Rockefeller Museum; 0 Permanent collections of Judaica, Archaeology, and Ethnographic Art; Rockefeller Museum: closed till Feb. 28. Visiting Hours/Events, Main Museum: Open 9-10. Shrine of the Book 10-10. At 3: Guided tour (English) of Shrine of the Book. 4-6: Guided tour of Citadel Museum for teachers; At 4:30: Guided tour (English)

TEL AVIV

MUSEUMS
TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Exhibitions: Dan

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Ophelia, 110 Jaffa, 539021; Balam, Saleh Eddin, 27215; Shu'afat, Shu'afat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.
Tel Aviv: Hakiry, 19 Ibn Gabirol, 226886; Kupat Holim Leumi, 4 Hefman, 257221.
Netanya: Nofit Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 52404.
Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Sd. Hanassi, 333312.
Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Sd. Hanassi, 333312.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bilur Holim (Internal, obstetrics, Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology), Hadassah E.K. (pediatrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Rokah (pediatrics, internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado (obstetrics, gynecology, internal, surgery, pediatrics).

FIRST AID

Magid David Adom emergency phone numbers (round the clock service).
Ashdod 41333
Ashkelon 23333
Kiryat Shmona 44334
Nahariya 22333
Netanya 22333
Petah Tikva 923111
Rohovot 45133
Rishon LeZion 942333
Safed 30333
Tel Aviv 240111
Tiberias 90111

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area around the clock.

*01 Emergency phone number in most areas.

"Eran" — Mental Health First Aid, Tel:

Jerusalem 227171, Tel Aviv 281111/2, Haifa 672222, Beersheva 418111, Netanya 35316.

Rapo Crisis Centre (24 hours), for help call Tel Aviv 234915, Jerusalem — 245554, and Haifa 88781.

Jerusalem Institute for Drug Problems. Tel. 653282, 663902, 14 Bethlehem Rd.

The National Police Control Centre in Ramat Hashikma, phone (04)822505, for emergency calls, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Kupat Holim Information Centre Tel. 03-433300, 433500 Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

POLICE

Dial 100 in most parts of the country, in Tiberias dial 924444, Kiryat Shmona 4444.

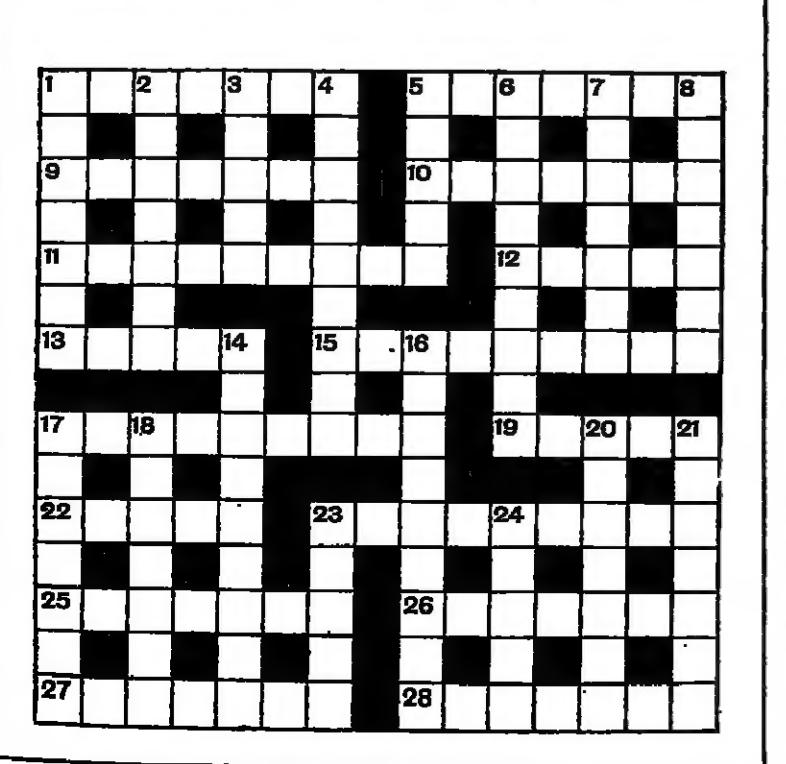
FLIGHTS

24-Hours Flight Information Service: Call 03-8712484 (multi-line), Arrivals Only (Taped Message) 03-381111 (20 lines).

ONE-ON-ONE CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 & 5 Colonists developing sparse film, right? (7, 7)
9 Carroll's companion for King Cole? (7)
10 No brief sort of beacon (7)
11 Anticipation of tea being served at forest in France (9)
12 Outdo forty, say, in Rome (5)
13 Change of oil in cricket-club produces tummy-ache (5)
15 Prompter takes in a rest (9)
17 Plan followed at Mafeking? (6, 5)
19 Borders of wild sedge (5)
22 Might penny be given to debtor? (5)
23 Flew here, perhaps talking in east coast (9)
25 Knockout sort of girl? (7)
26 Porcelain doctor needs to repair (7)
27 Beg rent revision — act as consumer (7)
28 Helping poor relations under canvas in the river (7)

DOWN
1 Deep blue? (7)
2 Free sort of Braille? (7)
3 Severely criticize the joint (5)
4 Big Eddy? (9)
5 Female fit to tell such a story (5)
6 Mandarin in a loose jacket (9)
7 Showed ruins of late Venice? (7)
8 Swift love leads queen of stars (7)
14 Is there enough space to sell up? (9)
16 Unkempt, went listlessly around promenade (5, 5)
17 Sally's answer to Paddy? (7)
18 Case for court dress? (7)
20 Undergo accident for reward (7)
21 Nothing said when license added (7)
23 Originator of tree on street (5)
24 What about English flour-source? (5)



TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT

ON THE AIR

Voice of Music

6.02 Morning Melodies
7.00 Haydn: Trio in E minor (Yuvall)
7.30 Bach: Trio Sonata; Beethoven: Violin Concerto (Manuella, Leipzig/Masur); Schubert: Symphony No.9 (Vienna/Solo)
8.30 Handel: Sonata No.4 for 2 Oboes; Haydn: Trumpet Concerto; Bach: Concerto No.78; Mozart: Violin Concerto No.5 (St. Martin's/Brown); Brahms: Symphony No.4 (Mehta)
12.05 Vivaldi: Oboe Sonata, C.P.E. Bach: Flute Sonata; Mozart: Sonata, K.526 (Szymon Goldberg, Radu Lupu); Clementi: Harpsichord Sonata
13.00 Beethoven: Cello Concerto No.2 (Germann); Beethoven: Piano Sonata No.18; Op.31, No.3 (B. Davidovich); Dvorak: Trio, Op.21 (Suk); De Falla: Spanish Folk Suite (Perlman); Gounod: Symphony No.1 (Touloukian)
15.05 From the Record Library
16.00 Respighi: "Festivals of Rome" (Montres/Dutoit); Beethoven: Piano Concerto No.3 (Lupu, IPO/Mehta); Josephs: Variations on a Theme by Beethoven (Adelaide); Scriabin: Symphony No.2 (London Philharmonic/Semkov)
18.30 Ennio Berendson and David Bloch — Handel: 2 Arias; Paur, Stravinsky, Ravel: 3 Vocalises; Schubert

First Programme

6.30 Programmes for Olim
7.30 Favourite Old Songs
8.05 Compass — with Benny Hendel
9.05 Hebrew songs
9.30 Encounter — live family magazine
10.30 Programme in Easy Hebrew
11.10 School Broadcasts
12.05 Education for all
12.05 Oriental songs
13.00 News in English
13.30 News in French
14.05 Children's programmes
15.25 Education for all
15.55 Notes on a New Book
17.20 Everyman's University
18.05 Jewish Traditions
18.47 Bible Reading
19.05 Talmud Lesson
19.30 Programmes for Olim
22.05 Two by Two

Second Programme

7.00 This Morning — news magazine
8.05 Safe Journey
8.05 Good Morning Israel
9.05 Right Now — with Rafi Roshel
10.00 Open Line — news and music
12.00 Midday — news commentary, music
14.05 Matters of Interest
15.05 Live Moments
16.05 Songs and HomeWork
17.10 Economics Magazine
18.05 Health and Medical Magazine
18.45 Today in Sport
19.05 Today — news magazine
19.35 New World — environment magazine
20.05 Cantorial Requests
22.05 Once More — repeat broadcast
23.05 Quizzes

Army

6.30 University on the Air
7.07 "707" — with Eitan Lifschitz
8.05 Good Morning Israel
9.05 Right Now — with Rafi Roshel
11.05 The Old Days — with Orly Yaniv
13.05 Israeli Style — with Eli Yisraeli
15.05 What's Doing — with Erez Tal
16.05 Four in the Afternoon
17.00 Evening News
18.05 Economics Magazine
19.05 Radio Radio
20.05 Not Only Rock
21.00 Mabat — TV News
21.30 University on the Air (repeat)
22.05 Popular songs
23.05 Classical Night Birds

Yesterday's Solution

SPELLING GROUND
C A O E N A
R O S E M A R Y S P I D E R
T E M W R E D
E R Y G A L A R M O R
S I S O A H W E
O C E D A M A
N D O S C A B A N A
F L E S H Y I N V E N T O R
U N A N L E
L A T E L Y F L U T T E R S

QUICK SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1. Wink, 4. Vehicle, 8. Nebula, 9. Mince, 10. Error, 11. Strife, 12. Avar, 13. Scheme, 14. Infer, 15. Mince, 16. Bayonet, 17. Witch, 18. Poise, 19. Trawl, 20. Dresser, 21. Ether.
DOWN: 1. Wander, 2. Enter, 3. Diagram, 4. Value, 5. Homer, 6. Condote, 7. Pleasant, 8. Hero, 9. Hero, 10. Newgate, 11. Scholar, 12. Oyster, 13. Roped, 14. Lobes, 15. Trunk.

TELEVISION

EDUCATIONAL:
8.15 School Broadcasts 14.00 Evolution (part 8) 14.20 Laurel and Hardy 14.45 Hello Israel 15.00 Rehovot Summer 15.30 Rainbow 16.00 Pratty Pratty 16.25 Dick Turpin (part 8) 17.00 A New Evening — live magazine
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES:
17.30 News for Young Children
18.00 Break Point. Part 2 of a 6-part British drama by Jeremy Burnham
ARABIC LANGUAGE programmes:
18.30 News roundup
18.35 Songs and dances
19.00 Safari to Adventure: Part 6: Sassafras Hunt
19.30 News
HEBREW PROGRAMMES resume at 20.00 with a news roundup
20.02 Road Safety, Israeli TV quiz, introduced by Seff Rivlin

CINEMAS

JERUSALEM 4.30, 7, 9
Edison: White Nights 15, 6.45, 9.15; Edison: Commando; Hebraic: Back to the Future 4.30, 6.45, 9; Kfir: Rocky IV; Mitchell: Target 6.45, 9.15; Orgill: Year of the Dragon 4, 6.30, 9; Orna: Crazy Weekend; Rami: The Lover; 4.30, 7, 9.15; Orly: Jagged Edge 6.45, 9; Per: Crazy Weekend; Rami: Rocky IV, 4.45, 9.15; Shavit: Ran 6, 9; Rav-Gat 1: Year of the Dragon 3.45, 6.30, 9.15; Rav-Gat 2: White Nights 3.45, 6.30, 9.15

RAMAT GAN

Armon: Crazy Weekend 6, 7.15, 9.30; Lity: Prizzi's Honor 7, 9.30; Romancing the Stone 4.30; Orna: Year of the Dragon 6.50, 9.30; Orna: Death Wish III, 7.15, 9.30; Ramat Gan: For Those in Love Get 9.30; Rav-Gat 1: Marie 5, 7.30, 9.45; Rav-Gat 2: Birdy 5, 7.30, 9.45; Rav-Gat 3: American Flyer 5, 7.30, 9.45; Rav-Gat 4: Plenty 4.30, 7.10, 9.40

NETZILYA

David: Crazy Weekend 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; Hebraic: Rocky IV 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; Tiferet: Commando 4.30, 7.15, 9.15; Daniel Hotel: King Solomon's Mines 7.15, 9.30

HOLON

Migdal: Year of the Dragon 7, 9.30; Savoy: Rocky IV, 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; Armon: Hamehadash: Birdy 7, 9.30; Deadly Weapon 5

BAT YAM

Atzma: Rocky IV, 4.30, 7.15, 9.30

GRIVATYIM

Hebraic: Rocky IV, 4.30, 7.15, 9.30

RAMAT HASHARON

Kochav: Amadeus 9.30; Never Ending Story 4, 7

סניא מן האל

MARKET PLACE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

Luring the convention trade

In a conversation some weeks ago with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, Tourism Minister Avraham Shafir asked him to use his influence to encourage more American organizations to hold their conferences and conventions in Israel.

The bait which Shafir held out would be that most effective of enticements — tax deductibility. If the U.S. authorities recognized the expense of conventions in Israel as tax deductible, Shafir reasoned, this would give a mighty boost to Israel's incoming tourism.

International conferences brought some 50,000 visitors to Israel last year, Shafir would like to see this figure doubled and tripled.

Convention consciousness is contagious throughout the local tourism industry. Tourist agencies sell convention packages; hotel brochures brim with assurances of the quality of convention facilities; and municipal bodies extol the virtues of their cities.

The truth is that not a single hotel in Israel is geared for conventions. The majority of hotels have been constructed with little or no thought for the physically handicapped. Providing wheelchair access to public toilets does not solve the problem. Often there are no ramps at the entrance to hotels, nor do the elevators reach every floor.

One of the worst offenders is the Jerusalem Hilton, whose below-ground meeting rooms can be reached only via an awkward staircase or by the tradesmen's entrance. Even some people not confined to wheelchairs have difficulty negotiating the semi-circular stairs.

But this example is more the exception than the rule.

What nearly all hotels lack is the basic infrastructure for a conference or convention. No suite of offices has been set aside for registration, information and press liaison offices, all of which are invariably a makeshift affair.

Organizations in any way affiliated with the Jewish Agency do not as a rule suffer from lack of administrative facilities, but that is to the credit of the Jewish Agency's public relations department, and not to the hotel in which a congress is being held. The Jewish Agency simply moves its PR operations, lock, stock and barrel into the hotel for the required period.

The question is, why should it or any other organization have to do this? Why is the required equipment not permanently on hand? For that matter, why should typists recording the proceedings of these affairs have to strain their eyes in dimly lit hotel bedrooms or small conference rooms, which serve as temporary offices?

And the strain isn't limited to the typists alone. Conference participants who want to take notes seldom have desks at their disposal nor do they have the benefit of bright lights. The "intimate lighting" of a converted banquet hall has to suffice for conventions as well.

Rarely are these banquet halls sound-proof. The concentration of conventioners is disturbed by the clink of coffee cups and the hum of conversation in the foyer on the one side, or the rattle of pots and pans in the kitchen on the other.

Simultaneous translation booths, which should be part and parcel of hotel convention facilities, almost always have to be hired from external sources.

These are just some of the irritants. Israeli hoteliers can rightfully argue that the situation isn't much better in some other countries and worse in many.

But Israel is still struggling to attract as many as two million tourists a year, and to borrow from one of the best known car rental firms, "we have to try harder." Foreign convention planners must be convinced that their organization would really miss out on the best if it by-passed Israel.

Nothing short of a revolution in the architectural design of Israeli hotels is needed to give Israel an acute advantage over competing countries.

Although it is a significant lure, sunshine is not the sole factor in upgrading tourism to Israel. It has to be sunshine plus....

Making it easier for companies to raise capital from the public

By AVI TEMKIN

Post Economic Reporter

The yields of short-term shekel deposits, such as certificates of deposit (tapas) and short-term deposits (pakam) may be drastically cut in the near future to make it easier for private firms to raise capital directly from the public.

According to government sources, private firms, especially those in financial trouble, such as Solel Boneh, will issue bonds to the public for long and medium terms. The bonds will be fully linked and offer a yield of 8 to 9 per cent. This will enable floundering firms to pay a large part of their short-term debts to the commercial banks and to convert them into medium-term debts owed to the public. Some \$400 million could be raised this way.

The sources indicated that the private-sector bonds would not compete with the long-term capital raising programme of the government. "We need that money to cover debt repayments, so that if we fail to raise it, the result will be a monetary injection," they said.

The new bonds would instead compete with short-term shekel deposits. These deposits are not part of the funds raised by the government in the capital market, but are in fact resources used by the commercial

banking system.

The sources claimed that the commercial banks would not be affected by the new move. "The banks will get back the funds they loaned out to private-sector firms, which are now in bad shape. The repayment will provide them with the resources they would otherwise lose due to the new bonds," the sources added.

According to the sources, yields of short-term shekel deposits are currently some 15 per cent, in real terms. "That makes it impossible to think about any issuance of debentures by the private sector," they said. They added that this makes it necessary to cut the yields of these deposits so as to make the new bonds sufficiently attractive.

They also pointed out that Prime Minister Shimon Peres fully supports this idea. "This is what the premier means in recent pronouncements when he says that money should be used to protect productive sectors from collapsing." They added that Peres is convinced this will enable the government to prevent major bankruptcies without enlarging the budget or injecting money into the economy.

The sources said that the entire plan is currently hanging fire until the current row between the Likud and Labour quiets down. In a few

weeks, the decision about this plan will have to be made, regardless of political developments.

In a related development, the Treasury yesterday enlisted the help of Prof. Michael Bruno, one of the architects of the economic plan, in its controversy with the premier's advisers and the Labour Party over the need to renew economic growth and to support troubled sectors.

The ministry released a letter by Bruno to Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, in which the professor calls on the minister to continue with efforts to stabilize the economy.

In his letter Bruno says that the Treasury should not permit any monetary injections. "If credits are granted for any unforeseen contingency, then some other budget item must be cut."

Bruno says that if the momentum of the economic plan is sustained, economic growth will follow, even if this develops only gradually. "The most dangerous phenomenon of the last few weeks is the attitude that another few percentage points of inflation would be a small price to pay for the renewal of economic growth," Bruno emphasized that with this approach the economy would gradually slip back into the crisis conditions from which it emerged only last July.

No free lunch — even in banking

TEL AVIV. — A dangerous misconception is at present given currency in the press. Bank charges, it is said, are ridiculously high. This is not in accordance with the facts. Bank charges are, with few exceptions, fair to modest.

It is usually thought by laymen that the modern machines which at the touch of a few buttons spew out a multitude of figures are inexpensive. The opposite is correct.

The automation of banking, which in Israel is more advanced than in many European countries, is a costly process. It would be counterproductive if the customer was not charged for the full cost of this much improved service.

It is not easy to determine what these costs are. But a simple comparison of the charges made by banks here with those in Europe and certainly in the U.S., shows that in nearly all cases Israeli banks charge less. Sometimes much less. Especially the so-called minimum charge, the base fee that has to be paid regardless of the size of the transaction, is much lower in Israel than abroad.

There is a danger in keeping bank charges too low. The risk of a customer becoming "overbanked," a typical Israeli disease, increases when banks charge less than their actual costs. This tendency increases when banks advertise, as some do

OPINION
J. VOET

today, that certain transactions are entirely free — if the customer only opens an account. This can easily lead to a situation where even people of modest means have accounts with two or three banks. This is usually entirely unnecessary and a waste of resources.

But the effect of keeping charges too low or of eliminating them entirely is even more serious than that. Since there is no such thing as a free lunch, the banks must obviously try to compensate themselves. They have to make a profit.

When securities transactions dried up as a source of income following the Stock Exchange debacle of 1983, the easiest way for the banks to compensate themselves was by charging a higher interest than was economically justified. This the banks did and continue to do on a large scale. They charge too much and they pay too much to depositors.

Although interest rates have come down substantially from the levels determined by the runaway inflation of the first seven months of 1985,

they are still too high. Especially high is the interest spread, that is, the margin between interest charged and interest paid. This is today the main source of profit for Israeli banking institutions.

The Bank of Israel and the Finance Ministry are of course aware of this situation, which makes life for many borrowers so difficult. But government policy faces dilemma. On the one hand, high interest paid to depositors is to be encouraged, since it induces saving. In addition, the banks are entitled to an interest spread that is sufficient to make their operations profitable.

The government is even interested in letting the banks make substantial profits. This is in order to reduce its own losses when it will have to buy back the bank shares for which it paid too much at the time.

This major financial operation looms only a few years ahead but it already casts its shadow. Today, the industrialists and the farmers who are heavily in debt to the banks, are partly paying for the folly of 1983.

Bank charges which are too low, and which are compensated for by too high interest, aggravate this undesirable situation. It is high time that so-called free lunches were abolished and that every customer pay at least the cost of the service he received. Also in banking.

FINANCIAL DATA:
ISRAEL, EUROPE, U.S.

Israel Money Markets February 17, 1986

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES

PRIME BORROWING RATE: 2 1/2% per month

Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	LAST UPDATED	TAPAS	PAKAM 7-DAY	PAKAM 30-DAY
LEUMI	17.2	12-23%	13-23%	12-21%
Hapoalim	9.2	12-24%	13-24%	12-21%
DISCOUNT	14.2	12-24%	13-24%	12-21%
MIZRAHI	9.1	12-24%	13-24%	12-21%
FIRST INTL	5.2	12-24%	13-24%	12-21%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.

(TAPAS: demand deposit paying daily interest.

PAKAM: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 90 days.)

PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (as of February 17)

	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD	7.575	7.500	7.625
SGD	11.750	11.750	11.500
DMK	3.875	3.875	4.000
SFR	3.250	3.375	3.375
YEN	4.500	4.375	4.375

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS	BANKNOTES	BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1.4802	1.45	1.4808
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	2.0634	2.05	2.0582
GERMANY	MARK	0.2689	0.26	0.2611
FRANCE	FRANC	0.2043	0.20	0.2057
HOLLAND	GULDEN	0.5552	0.55	0.5586
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	0.7581	0.75	0.7539
SPAIN	PESETA	1.684	1.68	1.6856
SWEDEN	KRONE	0.2009	0.20	0.2023
DENMARK	KRONE	0.1702	0.17	0.1712
FINLAND	MARK	0.2795	0.28	0.2813
CANADA	DOLLAR	1.0528	1.04	1.0538
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1.0310	1.03	1.0343
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	0.7067	0.70	0.7100
BEIJING	YUAN	0.3028	0.30	0.3085
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	0.8222	0.82	0.8281
ITALY	LIRE	0.9213	0.92	0.9277
JAPAN	YEN	0.8128	0.81	0.8183
JORDAN	DINAR	—	3.95	3.9982
EGYPT	POUND	—	0.81	0.8888

SUPPLIED BY BANK LEUMI

European Financial Markets
Precious Metals

GOLD:	LONDON	A.M. FIX	333.00	P.M. FIX	333.00
	PARIS	NOON FIX	334.56	ZURICH P.M.	333.50
SILVER:	LONDON	FIX	586.00		
PLATINUM:	LONDON	P.M.	374.75		
PALLADIUM:	LONDON	P.M.	101.00		

FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT)

Forward Rates	SPOT	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
POUND STERLING	1.4187/87	162/158	310/305	545/535
DEUTSCHE MARK	2.3355/55	220/196	293/282	789/778
SWISS FRANC	1.9480/80	199/194	385/370	773/743
DUTCH GULDEN	2.5430/45	145/140	290/280	615/580
FRENCH FRANC	7.1850/00	1150/1250	1850/2000	2500/2800
JAPANESE YEN	180.20/30	88/83	186/176	353/353
ITALIAN LIRA	1591.5/2.0	40/420	690/720	1130/1150
BELGIAN FRANC	47.85/90	33/38	46/58	60/75
HONGKONG DOLLAR	7.8065/85	285/245	545/505	1150/750
SAFRICAN RAND	0.4800/20	52/42	77/57	127/87
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.3555/55	138/145	220/235	325/355
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.6955/55	173/188	320/315	530/520
NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR	7.4050/00	610/650	1060/1180	1675/1800
NORWEGIAN KRONA	7.2990/40	940/980	1920/2010	3775/3900
DANISH KRONA	8.6300/00	101/70	101/70	101/70

Formula for determining forward rates:

high/low (eg. 220/210) — Deduct from spot price.

low/high (eg. 210/220) — add to spot price.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:	General Share Index	98.28	+0.28%
	Non-Bank Index	105.98	+0.70%
	Arrangement	96.35	+0.08%
	Insurance	112.15	+0.88%
	Commerce, Services	105.42	+1.65%
	Real Estate	115.67	+0.90%
	Industrial	103.40	+0.82%
	Textiles	122.72	+0.38%
	Metals	95.78	+1.20%
	Electronics	94.35	+0.12%
	Chemicals	102.35	+1.28%
	Industrial Invest.	107.37	+0.45%
	Investment Cos.	108.18	+0.06%
	General Bond Index	96.54	+0.38%
	Index-linked Bonds	95.68	+0.47%
	Partially-linked	97.90	+0.05%
	Fully-linked	95.95	+0.74%
	Dollar-linked Bonds	95.77	+0.08%
	Short-term 0-2 yrs	97.01	+0.67%
	Medium-term 2-5 yrs	96.84	+0.15%
	Long-term 5+ yrs	95.91	+0.50%

4.25% fully-linked 80% linked 30% linked Double-linked Dollar-linked Admon Rimon Gilboa For. Curr. denominated Treasury Bills (monthly yield) 1.64% to 1.94%

Stable/falls to 3% Mixed to 2% Falls to 1% Unchanged Rises to 1% Falls to 1% Minor movements

Arrangement yields: IDB ord. 15.08% Union 0.1 14.77% Discount A 14.76% Mizrahi r. 15.08% Hapoalim r. 15.08% General A 14.83% Leumi stock 15.13% Fin. Trade 1 14.07%

Bond Market Trends: Index-linked 3% fully-linked Stable/falls to 2%

Turnovers: Shares — total NIS 7,453,900 Arrangement NIS 2,809,800 Non-bank NIS 4,644,100 Bonds — total NIS 2,553,900 Index-linked NIS 830,300 Dollar-linked NIS 1,663,600 Treasury Bills NIS 187,600

Share Movements: Advances 220 (301) of which 5% + 48 (158) "buyers only" 15 (24) Declines 83 (21) of which 5% — 19 (3) "sellers only" 3 (0) Unchanged 79 (65) Trading Halt 52 (57)

Commercial Banks (not part of "arrangement") Meritline 1 810 2996 -3.9 First Int'l 2530 3052 +1.4 FIBI 2795 4498 -

Commercial Banks (part of "arrangement") IDB r. 73310 514 +0.1 Union 0.1 54850 70 +0.3 Discount 94250 70 +0.6 Mizrahi 30180 600 +0.3 Hapoalim r. 49820 1978 - General A 128050 7 +0.1 Leumi 0.1 31818 3058 - Fin. Trade 43000 -

Mortgage Banks Leumi Mort. r. 3370 308 -2.9 Dev. Mort. 848 1259 -2.3 Mishkan r. 1758 200 -1.3 Telshor r. 3930 32 -2.1 Merav r. 1730 662 -0.6

Real Estate, Building and Agriculture Azorim 2750 1756 +1.1 Eilon 980 1582 +4.3 Africa Tel. 0.1 33200 147 +4.8 Dan Hotels 280 30 +0.4 Yarden Hotel 1910 24 - Yarden 1 5754 53 +5.0 Team 1 1661 2332 +10.0

Financial Institutions Agric C 23821 3.9 - Ind. Dev. DD no trading Ind. Dev. DD 1 4889 34 +8.6

Insurance Ararat 0.1 r. 3377 90 - Hassneh r. 2585 4187 -0.2 Phoenix 0.1 1250 1655 +3.3 Hamishmar 4800 20 -5.5 Menorah 1 5928 40 +9.6 Sahar r. 2548 222 +2.0 Zion Hold. 1 8873 11 +3.7

Industrials Dubek b 4060 2871 +4.1 Pri-Ze 1 5045 10 -1.1 Sunfrost 10000 381 - Adgar 525 1235 +6.3 Argaman r. 6867 285 -0.3 Delta G 1 3840 513 -1.0 Maquette 1 19400 8 +2.6 Eagle 1 8550 110 +8.5 Polgar 0.1 8580 3440 -0.2 Schostelina 12450 436 -1.2 Rogosin 2585 874 -1.9 Urdan 0.1 r. 11900 306 - Is. Can. Co. 1 738 3426 - Zion Cable 1850 49 +0.5 Packer Steel 3800 90 +4.7 Elbit 3 r. 383000 11 -

Investment Companies IDB Dev. r. 2850 3800 -0.8 Eilon 2110 2351 +1.7 Afik 1 545 1585 - Gahel 1225 25 +0.8 Israel Corp. 1 5003 530 +0.5 Wolfson 1 r. 62000 147 +8.5 Hapoalim Inv. 4205 1219 +8.5 Leumi Invest. 3839 3285 +1.3 Discount Invest. 8000 198 +0.6 Mizrahi Invest. 2100 1411 -2.1 Chal 10 5222 -5.0 Pama 0.1 5600 208 +2.5

Oil Exploration Paz Oil Expl. 10350 42 -2.4 J.O.E.L. 1248 1010 -2.3

Abbreviations: s.o. sellers only b.o. buyers only r registered

FACTIONS

(Continued from Page One)

nished the Alignment's image." Coalition chairman Haim Kaufman said later that the big parties should find a way of cooperating more courteously in the cabinet, instead of behaving in a "superficial and coarse manner."

Alignment faction chief Rafi Edri easily persuaded the coalition executive to drop the issue of the economic restraint programme and the proposals for economic growth.

Earlier in the day the Likud faction executive expressed its confidence in Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i.

All U.S. stock markets and banks were closed yesterday, Washington's Birthday.

MODA'I

(Continued from Page One)

with regard to proposals by Peres to move from economic restraint to growth.

Moda'i announced this earlier yesterday at a special meeting of the Likud Knesset faction called to hear charges by Likud MK Michael Eitan that "Peres is trying to milk the public purse to support Solel Boneh and the Histadrut holding corporation, Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, and help them out of their financial straits."

TEL AVIV. — A leading manufacturer of disposable plates and cups claimed yesterday that sales have risen significantly in recent months because of public concern over Aids. The firm, Polybid, of Kibbutz

Eitan is known in the Likud for his total antagonism towards the Histadrut's economic corporations.

Moda'i said that a joint team comprising Treasury officials and officials of Hevrat Ha'Ovdim was studying Solel Boneh's financial position but had not yet submitted recommendations to him.

The finance minister said: "The economic restraint programme will soon collapse if we open the taps and let an inflationary tide surge through the economy."

'Fear of Aids boosts plastic plate sales'

Mishmar Hanegav, says it discovered this during a survey to determine why its sales of foamed polystyrene ("kal-kar") dishes meant for one-time use had suddenly increased.

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THE VAN LEER

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Beyond the cabinet debate

SOME national unity government, this government.

True, the practice of mudslinging across the cabinet table did not exactly originate last Sunday morning, and nor did the routine publication in all the media of the details of the vituperative abuse exchanged between ministers. It was early in Menachem Begin's rule that Ariel Sharon threatened to strip that venerable archaeologist and DMC leader, Yigael Yadin, naked on the table.

But it is also true that the invective has grown more strident in the present administration, which started out as a merely temporary political marriage of convenience, dictated by an unfortunate electoral deadlock and the spectre of economic catastrophe.

The interests of the Likud and the Alignment in this government have from the beginning been fairly irreconcilable. In meeting the challenge of economic recovery, the interest of the Likud has been to erase any trace of its direct responsibility for driving the country between 1977 and 1984 right to the edge of bankruptcy, and to ensure that it would be the ultimate beneficiary from the emergency rescue programme.

The Alignment's fear was that the sacrifice which its own supporters were called upon to make during the period of struggle with inflation, when it held the premiership, would be counted against it, while the eventual upturn after the "rotation" would be credited to the Likud.

Premier Shimon Peres - who had stayed far above the cabinet fray on Sunday - was speaking as party chief rather than as head of the government when he reminded the nation yesterday of the economic devastation wrought by the Likud during its seven years in power. But he had reason to suspect that the memory of those unforgettable years might be fading away, and that the people could be blaming the current drug shortages and spreading unemployment on the Alignment, which had predicted them, and not on the Likud, which had brought them about.

Mr. Peres must also be troubled by the fact that the execution of the stabilization programme, adopted by the cabinet in the face of opposition by most Likud ministers, is inevitably entrusted to the finance minister, who is a Likud leader himself. And while Yitzhak Moda'i's original bright idea of rescuing the economy by administrative fiat was overruled, at the premier's insistence, in favour of a joint cooperative effort by the Histadrut, the employers and the government, it is Mr. Moda'i who controls the country's purse strings.

These days Mr. Moda'i, using the powers vested in him, seems to be working overtime to prevent the success of the stabilization programme from being translated into a start on economic growth.

Needless to say, the finance minister is no enemy of growth as such. But he must think that the time is not ripe for such a shift of gears; that the stabilization should first prove itself by the removal of all price controls, and that caution is still the order of the day. That, however, is not what he has been claiming: although he may be mainly concerned to deny the premier the opportunity to contribute to growth by forming an independent fund for the purpose, he prefers to inveigh against non-existent plans to print money and increase the budget.

Rather than come to grips with Mr. Peres's proposals to utilize part of the savings from lower oil prices, and part of the public's own regular savings, to initiate economic growth now, Mr. Moda'i hurls personal insult at Alignment ministers whose departments the finance minister has been cruelly starving of funds due to them. It is regrettable that these colleagues of his have been playing into Mr. Moda'i's hands by participating in a disgusting travesty of a cabinet debate.

A good case might presumably be made both for and against the immediate initiation of a process of economic growth. But if this unhappy government is to go on functioning, Mr. Moda'i will have to persuade the premier's party that his preferred policy is not politically inspired, and that the success of his operation will not, in fact even against his will, knock the patient - Israel's economy - into a coma of protracted stagnation.

Beirut's Jews must come home

FOR THE THIRD time in two months, a kidnapped Lebanese Jew was slain in Beirut by members of the murder gang that goes by the name of the Organization of the Oppressed of the Earth.

The fake charge of spying for Israel levelled by the killers at Ibrahim Benesti needs no rebuttal: the assassination was plainly an act of revenge by fanatical Shi'ites under Iranian influence against Israel's security measures in southern Lebanon, which they embellished by also protesting Israel's alleged desecration of Moslem holy places under its control. Rather than confront Israel directly, the killers chose the easier way of trying to influence its conduct by murdering individual Lebanese Jews.

That the attempt will fail goes without saying. But is there anything else that Israel can do to discourage the recurrence of such criminal activities against fellow Jews?

Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir yesterday vowed that the Beirut killers - whose identity does not appear to be known at this time - would be apprehended, and duly punished. This, however, was mere rhetoric, unless Mr. Shamir meant to convey the threat that Israel would retaliate by the random killing of Shi'ite extremists. The suggestion made in the local press that Israel should arraign Lebanon before the Security Council for failing to protect its Jewish citizens, can only have been made in jest.

All Israel can effectively do for Lebanon's few remaining Jews, thus, is to bring them over here.

That they should still be there is utterly astonishing, as Mr. Shamir rightly indicated. It was much easier to extricate them from that viper's nest a while ago, but it is still not impossible. Their fate is in their own hands: if - and that is the only idea that comes to mind - they prefer such fleshpots as they still enjoy to life in freedom and dignity, Israel cannot but renounce responsibility for them.

The same message should go out of Jerusalem to such countries as Iran, where a sizeable number of Jews still remains and to which some Jews have lately come back to reclaim their properties and stay on. Israel, as a Jewish state, has a duty to help oppressed Jews to leave countries which deny them their rights, including the right to leave. But it owes no such duty to Jews who refuse to be liberated by coming home to Israel.

PRIME MINISTER Shimon Peres's public interment last weekend of the Hussein-Arafat talks was decidedly premature - if only because, if there is to be peace on Israel's eastern border, there will have to be talks, sooner or later, between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian team representing both the Jordanian monarch and the PLO leader. And such a team or delegation can and will come into being only if the Jordanians and the PLO, in pursuance of their agreement of last February, reach an acceptable formula for PLO entry into the talks.

Peres for months, perhaps years, has been telling all and sundry that in the end, Hussein will have to enter peace talks with Israel (albeit behind a figleaf of international accompaniment) without the PLO and the Syrians. Syria is strategically bent on the destruction of the Zionist state and even tactically seems incapable of joining any sort of peace talks with Jerusalem, argues Peres. In president Hafez Assad's office hangs a portrait of Saladin, who began the destruction of the Crusader kingdoms, with which Assad invariably compares Israel. So far so good, or bad.

As to the PLO, says Peres, it too, partly because of the diversity of its component forces and partly out of ideological inertia, is incapable of seriously entering a peace dialogue with Israel, which would imply recognition of the Jewish state and, ultimately, would involve formal acceptance of an Israel in the Middle East in at least most of Mandatory Palestine. Arafat, beset by PLO rebels in Damascus, neutrals, like George Habash and Naif Hawatmeh, inside the PLO, who oppose the peace process and hardliners even within his own official Fatah faction, "has a diplomacy but no policy," as Peres tirelessly tells everyone within earshot. There is no talking to him.

Thus, the sooner Hussein realizes this and breaks off the pointless dialogue with Arafat, the sooner will Jordan face the stark need to go it alone (or only with Egypt at its side) in the peace process with Israel, according to Peres.

PERES KNOWS, along with Hussein, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and the U.S. (and all schoolchildren in the region), that in the absence of momentum towards peace there will be no a standstill but a slide to war, and war sooner rather than later. As nature abhors a vacuum so the Middle East seems to abhor a standstill (if not actually peace itself).

It was at least partly to prevent such a standstill in the process that Peres last week announced Israel's intention to grant a greater measure of self-government to the inhabitants of the occupied territories. If the announcement was also meant as a minatory signal to Hussein, it probably fell very flat, as no one in the territories will buy anything less than full autonomy which would quickly devolve into a Palestinian state. That is hardly what Peres (with whatever measure of sincerity) is offering.

Peres, Hussein, Mubarak, the Americans and all schoolchildren also know that time is also running out in another sense - the physical process of Israeli annexation of the West Bank is rapidly moving towards the point of irreversibility. Hussein is said by visitors to have a well-thumbed copy of the Meron Benvenisti report on the ongoing, "irreversible" annexation on his coffee table. It is reportedly coffee-stained and read nightly, "like a Bible," by the Jordanian monarch.

Hussein, somewhat belatedly and for no clear reason, has at last woken up to this fact, and wants to halt or reverse it. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which served to highlight the Palestinian problem, also revealed to Hussein Israel's demon streak - which, because it might next be directed against the Hashemites, also propelled him towards the peace process. Peres, who rightly fears for the Jewish character of

Premature burial

King Hussein and Yasser Arafat are not the only ones who must rethink their positions. Israel, too, must reconsider its stand on the PLO, writes Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Correspondent Benny Morris

Israel, also is mortally afraid of annexation.

BUT PERES is probably the only person (or at least one of the few people) in the Middle East who believes (or claims to believe) that Hussein can go it alone and that peace can be concluded without (or in defiance of) the PLO.

Everybody who has talked to Hussein (or talked to people who have talked to Hussein) in the past months has returned with the clear impression that the Jordanian will not negotiate with Israel without a Palestinian delegation at his side and that Hussein believes that a representative Palestinian delegation will not materialize without PLO authorization and perhaps appointment.

The problem of PLO participation in the peace talks, contrary to popular belief in Israel, is contingent on the clearing of two hurdles. It is not just a question of the PLO implying recognition of Israel through the acceptance of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions (242 and 338) and renouncing terrorism but also of defining the Palestinian entry terms in such a way as to leave Jordan and the PLO equal partners in the dialogue, implying that they will remain equal partners in the post-negotiation settlement.

Arafat, of course, prodded by the rebel PLO and his own hardliners (Farouk Kaddoumi, Abu Iyad), is incapable of recognizing Israel or implying recognition of Israel and renouncing terrorism without at least American (and possibly also Israeli) recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

The PLO regard recognition of Israel as the strongest (and perhaps only) political card in their hand, and refuse to squander it. They will not play it unless assured of a *quid pro*

quo in the same coin - American or American-Israeli recognition of Palestinian self-determination.

The timing of the PLO declaration of acceptance of 242 and 338, or at least of an announcement of willingness or intent to recognize these resolutions, must be in some manner linked and synchronized with the American or American-Israeli *quid pro quo*.

AT THE SAME time, and this is hardly understood in Jerusalem, the PLO's insistence on recognition of Palestinian self-determination and of high-level and equal Palestinian representation on the joint PLO-Jordanian delegation for peace talks, is as much linked to the PLO's relations with Jordan as to the desire to exact concessions from the U.S. and Israel.

Hussein would like a federal structure, covering Transjordan and the areas of the West Bank and Gaza relinquished by Israel, to emerge as the outcome of the peace process: Amman would be the capital, and the West Bank would be the junior partner or minor state in the federation. The mainstream PLO, which realizes that the dream of a separate, independent Palestinian state (obnoxious to Israel, the U.S. and Jordan) is unattainable (certainly at the moment), would prefer that the structure emerging in a peace settlement be confederal, with Transjordan and the West Bank being equal, largely independent, loosely connected partners under the umbrella of the Hashemite crown. Arafat, who may be willing to accept something less than the full confederal model, is being pressured by his associates (such as Kaddoumi and Abu Iyad) not to concede on the recognition by all parties (especially Amman) of the Palestinians' right to self-determination and on high-

level, equal PLO representation in the joint delegation as harbingers of what must emerge from the prospective peace talks. If there is no Jordanian and American recognition of Palestinian self-determination and if the Palestinians fill a less than equal role in the joint delegation, what hope can there be that anything resembling the desired confederal solution will emerge from such talks?

MEANWHILE, the peace process has reached a watershed, with all sides - except, it seems, Israel - examining their options. Mubarak and Hussein, intent on halting the annexation and a slide to war, are pushing Arafat to come up with a formula (on accepting 242 and 338, and renouncing terrorism) that will satisfy the Americans. Arafat, it appears, will attempt to convince his colleagues that there must be more PLO give if the Palestinians are to get into the process and get anything out of it. And the Americans - as signalled by last week's long State Department statement on the Palestinian problem, including recognition of the problem as more than a refugee problem and of the Palestinians' "legitimate rights" - are trying to exhibit more flexibility and give vis-a-vis the PLO in order to elicit more give from Arafat.

But it will probably all prove an exercise in shadow-boxing, futile and ultimately depressing, if Israel fails to offer anything of its own. And with Peres boxed in by his Likud partners and the inertia of Labour history, it is doubtful whether Peres will come through. The only bright spot on the horizon is the prospect of the rotation, which promises to transfer power from Labour to the Likud in six months time unless Peres offers concrete concessions to the Palestinians, concessions which would force the Likud to bolt the coalition. Ironically, it may be the threat of rotation which will drive Labour to at last moderate its position on the PLO.

CORRECTION

The writer of "Negligent About Nazis" in our February 13 issue was Paul Korda, and not as printed.

READERS' LETTERS

SHAMIR SHOULD YIELD TO PERES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - It is difficult to write about rotation without being immediately identified with one of the political parties. It is even more difficult to persuade readers that the writer of these lines is sincerely trying to approach the subject solely from the point of view of the national interest.

From what I learned during a recent trip to Europe, I am more convinced than ever that the State of Israel has a historic opportunity, which it may never have again, to improve its international standing. Changes in leadership at this critical juncture are liable to put an end to what seems such a promising process.

I followed closely the official statements of European leaders and the expressions of public opinion in the media during Prime Minister Peres's recent trip to Europe. Shimon Peres has recaptured the esteem of the Europeans for the position of prime minister and for Israeli policy - an esteem which we had enjoyed until the Six Day War and afterwards, and which we lost during the difficult days following the Yom Kippur War.

Shimon Peres's stamina for work has become legendary in Europe and his unstinting devotion to the peace process has at last given people the impression that Israel is on the right track while the Arab leaders are openly accused of being unwilling and unable to find a solution to the problems of the area.

The Foreign Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, both because of his personality and his position, is very attentive to what the Europeans say. He deserves part of the credit for our recent successes in renewing diplomatic ties with African countries and establishing them with Spain. It can be expected that he and his party will be ready to give up temporarily their narrow party interests for the sake of the national interest.

Were he to give up the rotation voluntarily, within a framework which would protect the legitimate interests of the Likud and the right of its leader to be prime minister, this would be an impressive indication that he understands the present needs of the country and would contribute enormously to the success of the current process, which is so important to our future.

A politician, by his very nature and as enlightened as he may be, is influenced by his desire to achieve power. But the source of this power, lies with the people - with the thousands of voters who want the politicians to express their views and act for the higher good.

Let us exploit to the full the opportunity which we have. The road to the top is arduous. Let us not change horses in the middle, lest the coach roll backward.

SAM FEDERMAN
Tel Aviv.

NON-ALLOPATHIC TREATMENTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - We are Israel-based researchers investigating both conventional and alternative medical training and practice. Our particular interest is non-allopathic treatments.

To further our research, we would like to meet Russian and Rumanian medical and para-medical practitioners who have been trained/ worked in the Soviet Union/ Rumania in the past 10 years. Any introductions to such persons would be greatly appreciated. Please phone 02-699649.

CAROL ANN BERNHEIM
STEPHEN FULDER
Jerusalem.

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PRICE CONTROL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - In your issue of February 7, David Krivine writes about the effect of the reduction of the price of fuel. From the headline he appears to suggest that the Minister of Energy is only pressing for a reduction in order to gain some popularity. In the course of his argument to try and prove his point, he makes a number of statements that are, to say the least, arguable.

I suppose even David Krivine will accept that the lowering of the price of fuel (i.e. a reduction in the government tax on fuel) will reduce, amongst other things, the cost of transport, heating, electricity, refrigeration etc., and as a result the cost of processed foods and other manufactured goods that use heat and electricity in their production. At the moment, the government is controlling prices and could, if it wished, reduce the price of all services and goods affected by such cost reductions.

How can Krivine pretend that this will not reduce inflation? To suggest that the resultant saving in expenditure by the public at large is going to put more spare money in their hands and will cause their buying more consumer goods leading to price rises through greater demand is surely wrong while there is price control to prevent such rises.

JACK SKLAN
Jerusalem.

DAVID KRIVINE COMMENTS

Price control and price stability are not the same thing. Prices are stable if they do not rise after price controls are removed.

JEWISH UNITY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I read with interest the proposal by MK Ehud Olmert to create joint rabbinic courts to deal with the question of "Who is a Jew," as reported in The Jerusalem Post of February 7. I commend MK Olmert both for the spirit of rapprochement and the readiness for innovative thinking in such a proposal. For too long we have seen hostility, name-calling, and even violence as the norm in relations between groups of Jews. It is gratifying to see Mr. Olmert speak out and seek out concrete possibilities aimed at resolving rifts, rather than join the ranks of those content to garner power and score more points for their side.

Needless to say, any long-term solution to this question will need to recognize the pluralistic nature of the Jewish people even while seeking to promote unity. While Mr. Olmert's particular proposal may not adequately meet the needs of the various parties involved, continued efforts in this direction are to be encouraged and supported.

I suggest to Mr. Olmert and others who seek dialogue with North American Jewry that they turn also to the fourth and newest of the religious movements on the American scene, the Reconstructionist movement. Over the years, Reconstructionism has influenced the thinking, practices and institutions of contemporary Jewish life, numbering among its initiatives the Jewish centre concept, the bat mitzva ceremony, Jewish education in summer camp settings, and the *havura*. While asserting the right - and responsibility - of each generation of Jews to study the tradition anew and formulate beliefs and practices in light of its own understanding of Jewish teachings and contemporary developments, Reconstructionism ascribes utmost importance to *klal Yisrael*, and the intelligent assault on barriers which divide us.

Moreover, many of the leaders of this relatively young movement come from Orthodox, Conservative, or Reform backgrounds, and consequently offer a likely bridge between camps.

Confident that the leadership of the Reconstructionist movement will offer support and creative collaboration in response to initiatives from Israel, I call upon Mr. Olmert and others seeking *shvut ahim gam yehad* to avail themselves of this vital resource.

Rabbi MITCHELL SMITH
Haifa.

BATTERED WOMEN

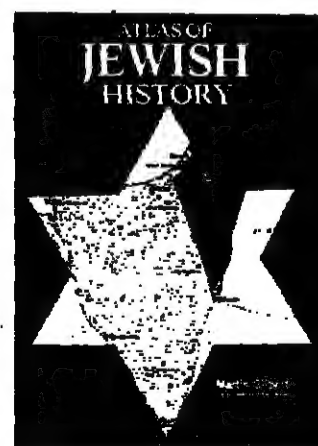
To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I refer to the article, "What becomes of battered women?" (February 9).

It is evident that the present system of shelters for battered women with their social workers, family counsellors, etc. does not solve the problem. Therefore, I would like to suggest a radical, albeit, admittedly, unorthodox solution: these shelters should hire karate teachers. After proper self-defence instruction, the battered women can safely return home. Nothing could be more educational for a violent husband than to be on the receiving end of a couple of well directed karate chop strokes.

JACOB ROSIN
Netanya.

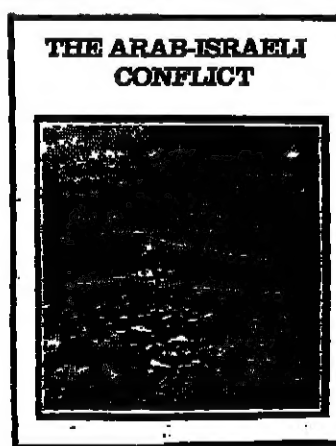
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